

Velayati to visit Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will arrive in Saudi Arabia Thursday for the first high-level visit since the two states resumed ties last month. Riyadh-based diplomats and officials said Wednesday. They said Mr. Velayati would discuss Gulf security and ways of improving links between the two countries and would travel to Jeddah for meetings with Saudi King Fahd and senior officials. Mr. Velayati was initially scheduled to visit the kingdom last Saturday but his trip was postponed to avoid coinciding with a trip by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, diplomats said. Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia and its five Arab allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) improved dramatically during the Gulf war. Iran and Saudi Arabia cut ties three years ago. Relations worsened after 400 pilgrims, mainly Iranians, were killed in clashes with Saudi security forces during political rallies in Islam's holiest shrine in Mecca in 1987.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

Israeli colonel demoted to private

TEL AVIV (AP) — An army colonel was ordered demoted to the rank of private Tuesday for instructing soldiers to beat and break the limbs of a group of Arab detainees near the start of the Palestinian uprising. The sentencing of Yehuda Meir ended one of the most dramatic military trials of the uprising which exposed internal army controversy over a practice of beating protesters as a riot-control measure. He was also one of the highest ranking officers to be put on trial during the 40-month-old rebellion. "I have mixed feelings... the court said I should be a private... that's what will be," Col. Meir said on army radio of his sentence while leaving the Tel Aviv military court. The tribunal found Col. Meir guilty April 8 of ordering soldiers to beat and break the arms and legs of Palestinians detained in Beita and Hawara villages in January 1988.

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Bessmertnykh said due here next month

AMMAN (J.T.) — Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh is due to visit Jordan early next month in the course of a tour of the Middle East region, according to a report in Sawr al Shaab Arabic daily Wednesday. The report said that the minister's visit, the first to Jordan and the region, since assuming his post, aims at sounding out the views of various parties involved in the Middle East conflict, particularly with regard to the question of an international or regional conference. The minister, the report said, is expected to be accompanied by a team of specialists in Middle East affairs.

Lebanon trying to cancel visa rules

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lebanon's ambassador to Jordan said in a statement published in Al Dustour daily that he would try to bring about the cancellation of the visa requirement for visitors to and from Lebanon. The ambassador said that Jordan and Lebanon maintain unique trade links and he expected the relations to be boosted in the future. He said that the consular section at the embassy was doing all it can to ensure visas for Jordanians wishing to visit Lebanon, but priority is normally given to businessmen and diplomats.

Israel releases passenger boat

SIDON (R) — Israel has released a passenger boat seized by its security forces off South Lebanon, port sources said Wednesday. The Cyprus-registered Bezziz was intercepted Sunday off the Lebanese port of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut and diverted to Israel. The sources said the boat arrived in the Cypriot port of Larnaca Wednesday. They could not say whether Israel detained anyone on board. The boat was carrying 12 passengers — six Palestinians, five Lebanese and a Moroccan. Its crew comprised three Egyptians, three Lebanese, two Bulgarians and a Sri Lankan.

UAE president visits Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan arrived in Kuwait on Wednesday, the first head of state to visit the emirate since the Gulf war ended. Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah was at the airport to receive Sheikh Zayed, who is on a tour of Gulf states. He visited Saudi Arabia Tuesday and was due in Bahrain later Wednesday.

Rafsanjani to visit Syria on Saturday

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani will begin a three-day visit to Syria next Saturday, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Wednesday. The visit is in response to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's trip to Tehran last September. Mr. Rafsanjani had previously travelled to Damascus as parliament speaker. Diplomats in Damascus said Mr. Rafsanjani's talks were expected to cover the aftermath of the Gulf war and the 12 Western hostages held by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon.

Belgian aid to Kurds faces delays

BRUSSELS (AP) — A Belgian emergency mission to help Kurdish refugees in Iran continued to face delays Wednesday, three days after local authorities stopped soldiers accompanying the aid. "This is not what we had planned and hoped for," Jose Charlier said in a statement. "Several difficulties and constraints have led to delays." Thirty-eight paratroopers left Brussels on four Hercules transport planes carrying badly needed emergency aid to Kurdish refugees in northwestern Iran. But they were kept in Urumieh upon their landing, officials said. "They did not have visas since, normally, for humanitarian operations like this, no visas are required," said a government official.

PLO insists on U.N. conference, but keeps door open for U.S. ideas

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Wednesday it wanted a full-scale U.N. conference on Middle East peace and rejected any "regional" conferences which would not carry the same weight under international law. The organisation deftly avoided closing the door on U.S. diplomacy, however, saying guidelines for peace laid down by U.S. President George Bush in March should be among the principles behind the conference. The 100-strong Palestine Central Council PCC, after a three-day meeting in Tunis, said: "The council asserts the need to hold an international peace conference attended by all the parties concerned, including the PLO and the five permanent members (of the U.N. Security Council), under U.N. supervision."

"It rejects any regional or other (form of) conference which is not based on this international legitimacy," U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has been touring the Middle East in an attempt to narrow the gap between Arab and Israeli ideas on who should take part in a peace conference and what its terms of reference should be. Israel wants a regional conference which would pave the way

for bilateral talks with Arab states. The Arab prefer a U.N. conference to put pressure on Israel to exchange land for peace. Mr. Baker has not consulted the PLO but he has had three meetings with prominent Palestinians close to the organisation.

The PLO, apparently trying to keep its options open, referred with some favour to a March 7 speech in which President Bush said U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace should be the basis for a Middle East settlement.

The resolutions call for Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territory and negotiations on a settlement. "The Central Council considers that the March 7 announcement... with the important elements it contains, requires practical implementation and a U.S. commitment to adopt the principles in it, alongside other U.N. resolutions, as the basis for the international peace conference," the council said.

The PLO position was agreed, ignoring strong pressure from hardliners for outright rejection of Mr. Baker's ideas. "We have decided to treat the American initiatives positively, to improve them and reach a solution," said a senior PLO official who asked not to be named.

"We want respect for U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace, even if the solution comes in internationally guaranteed stages," he said.

The PCC, which meets about twice a year to set policy guidelines for the 15-man Executive Committee, held its session at a secret location in Tunis.

Hardline PLO groups had demanded the council reject Mr. Baker's proposals while moderates favoured a flexible approach as suggested by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at the opening session on Sunday.

"In the end, everyone concurred with Farouk Kaddoumi (the head of the Political Department), who said it would not be the first time the Americans made proposals which did not materialise. We must be careful not to fall into a trap," one delegate told Reuters.

George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), threatened to force a vote on suspending PLO diplomatic moves as long as Washington refused to deal directly with the PLO, delegates said.

Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of

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Baker assails settlement, heads for Soviet talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker condemned Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank in unusually sharp words Wednesday and said his efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference still had far to go.

He said he and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad made some progress in nearly 10 hours of talks. They failed, however, to agree what role the United Nations should play in Middle East peacemaking.

"We were very disappointed to learn this morning that there is yet another new settlement established in the occupied territories," Mr. Baker told reporters

before leaving for the Soviet Union.

"That points up vividly that it is easier to obstruct peace than to promote it," he said, obviously angry.

Mr. Baker was referring to the actions of a group of Israelis, who on Tuesday moved into a newly erected settlement in the occupied West Bank, 20 kilometres northwest of Jerusalem. It was the second Jewish enclave planted in the occupied territories since Mr. Baker began his latest shuttle mission in the region.

The most optimistic message from Mr. Baker was his assertion that he would not be spending so much time in the region if he did

not see signs of progress and his implication that he might return soon.

Asked if Syria would agree to a peace conference with the United Nations as an observer instead of a participant, Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said:

"The Syrian position vis-a-vis this point is very clear. The U.N. should play an important role in this conference... we are still discussing the nature of that role."

Mr. Sharaa, appearing with Mr. Baker at a joint news conference, said of Mr. Baker's peace mission: "We are not optimistic"

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Syria spells out its terms for peace

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria spelt out its position on U.S. peace efforts in detail on Wednesday and said the aim of its talks with Washington was to find out how far the United States was committed to enjoining U.N. resolutions. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, at a joint news conference with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, noted that President George Bush undertook on March 6 to work for a Middle East settlement based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338.

The resolutions call for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and a conference to negotiate a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Mr. Sharaa said a meeting lasting nearly 10 hours on Tuesday between Mr. Baker and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad was "to explore the U.S. commitment and its position, because we know in advance that if we listen to the Israeli position there would be no peace."

"In fact they (the Israelis) are talking about war rather than talking about peace. They were dragging the region into war... they are not pushing us towards peace," he added.

U.S. officials have portrayed Mr. Baker's mission as an attempt to close the gap between Arabs and Israelis on the form a peace conference should take and who should take part.

Mr. Sharaa gave no sign of a shift in Syria's position, said: "A peace settlement must be based on Israeli withdrawal from

occupied territory and recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people."

The United Nations, because of its long involvement in the Arab-Israeli conflict, had to be "a term for reference" in the conference discussions.

The United States, the Soviet Union, Europe and the United Nations should all take part in the proposed peace conference.

Given international participation on this scale, it was obvious that it would not be a "regional" conference. Israel, with support from the United States, has been pushing for a brief meeting, sponsored by the United States and possibly the Soviet Union, to pave the way for direct bilateral talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

It was up to the Palestinians to decide who would represent them at the conference and Syria had no objection to an independent Palestinian delegation. Palestinians widely accept the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as their spokesman but Israel rejects any PLO role in peace talks.

Mr. Baker told the news conference there was broad agreement that the conference should seek a settlement based on the two U.N. resolutions.

"Now having said that, the parties have their different interpretations of exactly what is required. That is the reason why we need direct bilateral negotiations," he added.

U.N. force sets up base in south Iraq

SAFWAN (Agencies) — United Nations peacekeepers Wednesday raised their blue flag in place of the American stars and stripes on a rusty pole in this sweltering desert town.

But a U.S. colonel said his troops would not leave Iraq until the safety of refugees is guaranteed.

"We will continue to protect the refugees," Col. Bill Nash told the head of the U.N. observation post, Lt-Col. Peter Feely, an Irishman.

"We're not moving out, we're just handing over this spot," the American said at a brief noon-time ceremony when the flags were changed.

Col. Feely was one of four unarmed U.N. military observers who moved into a tent left behind by the Americans, marking the first formal presence by the United Nations in a demilitarised zone that stretches 10 kilometres into Iraq and five kilometres inside Kuwait.

The U.N. established two additional posts Wednesday, one on a hill west of Safwan and the other in the Iraqi coastal town of Umm Qasr, said the commander of the U.N. peacekeepers, Major-General Gunther Greindal.

"The Iraqi authorities have cooperated very well," said Gen. Greindal, an Austrian. "They have

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King briefs Armed Forces officers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday met senior officers at the army headquarters in Amman and briefed them on the general situation in the region and the political developments following the Gulf war as well as efforts to find a peaceful and just settlement to the Palestine problem.

The King also spoke about Jordan's firm position, underlining the importance of the Jordanian role at the Arab level.

"We in Jordan will remain steadfast with our

heads raised high and will continue to serve as a shield protecting our nation as we did in the past," the King said.

The King paid tribute to the democratic experiment in Jordan and the strong cohesion among the members of the Jordanian family.

He also voiced pride in and paid tribute to the Armed Forces. Army Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker attended the meeting.

Iraq, rebel Kurds reach agreement in principle

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi rebel leader Jalal Talabani said Wednesday that he and other Kurdish groups had reached agreement in principle with President Saddam Hussein and his government on greater autonomy for their region.

Mr. Talabani, speaking after talks with President Saddam for the first time since 1984, appealed to hundreds of thousands of refugee Kurdish families who fled towards Iran and Turkey after a failed uprising to return to their homes in northern Iraq.

"As a principle I can say yes," he told a news conference when

asked if the two sides had reached agreement.

"We need to have another round of negotiations for details to implement it."

Initial reports spoke of Mr. Talabani signing a deal with President Saddam but the rebel leader insisted that more talks had to be held.

Mr. Talabani, wearing Kurdish national dress, sitting under a portrait of President Saddam and fingering a string of beads, said the next round of talks would begin after celebrations for President Saddam's 54th birthday, which is Sunday.

He said all Kurds were being told to return to their homes in Iraqi Kurdistan in the northern part of the country.

Mr. Talabani, who led a Kurdish rebel delegation to talks in the Iraqi capital at the request of the government, said the pact was based on a 1970 agreement granting the 3.5 million Kurds autonomy in Kurdistan.

"The final agreement will be signed by Masoud Barzani," he said referring to the son of late Mustafa Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, one of the main Kurdish groups waging a guerrilla campaign

Iraqis, allies boost forces in Zakho

ZAKHO, Iraq (Agencies) — Iraq moved hundreds more armed men into this tense northern Iraqi town Wednesday and the United States and its allies, trying to set up havens for Iraqi refugees, did the same.

A U.S. military spokesman demoted reports by British military sources that the allies had given Iraq 48 hours to pull its forces out of Zakho. "There is no such deadline," Lieutenant Colonel Bob Flocke told reporters in Zakho.

Residents said 500 to 700 uniformed Iraqis arrived to join an advance party which drove in by bus Sunday.

More than 600 British commandos also entered Zakho Wednesday to set up permanent patrols.

At 1:30 p.m. (1030 GMT), three companies of commandos landed by helicopter and took up key positions in all but western Zakho, near the area where U.S. troops are erecting a tent city for tens of thousands of Kurdish refugees.

The British commandos said they encountered no resistance from the Iraqis, who were still patrolling Zakho Wednesday despite U.S. demands to stay clear of the relief effort.

The British soldiers will patrol the town along with other allied troops.

The Iraqis say their forces are police, but Zakho people say they are soldiers or secret police. "About 10 of them are real police," said one inhabitant.

Zakho residents say they have

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Minister warns of contaminated water

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Hayel Serour announced Wednesday that the water of the King Talal Dam was polluted by boron and chemical substances and warned that contamination could reach an unprecedented level in summer.

"The water in the reservoir behind the King Talal Dam, which now contains more than 25 million cubic metres of water, mainly used for irrigation in the Jordan Valley in the dry season, is polluted by waste dumped in the Zarqa River by

factories in violation of the public safety regulations," the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"Despite contacts with the factory owners, and the long meetings held to discuss the problem as well as the constant flow of correspondence between the ministry and these factories, the waste continues to be dumped in the river, which flows to the King Talal Dam. The water in the dam feeds the irrigation canals heading towards the Jordan

Valley region," the minister pointed out.

He said that Jordan was an agricultural country which depended mostly on the King Talal Dam's water, polluted now by waste water insufficiently treated by the factories.

"These plants and factories along the Zarqa River insist on using in their operations boron (a metalloid element) and certain chemicals which are difficult to be eliminated through the subsequent treatment process," the minister said.

He said that factories use

boron because it is cheaper than other materials.

"Unless the factories are deterred from pursuing their action, the country is bound to face real danger," the minister added.

The minister's statement came one day after he and three of his colleagues in the Cabinet decided to put into force a 1989 government decision on the recycling of properly treated waste water for irrigation purposes in the pro-

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Gorbachev maintains edge over hardliners

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev scored an early victory at a key Communist Party meeting Wednesday when members refused to discuss whether he should step down as party chief while serving as president, a news agency said.

Critics also failed to make Mr. Gorbachev account for his management of the party at the closed meeting of the party's 410-member Central Committee, the independent Interfax agency reported, without attribution.

Interfax said participants proposed discussing "separating the duties" of president and party leader. If the posts were divided, Mr. Gorbachev would have to give up one.

The motion was defeated by a majority, Interfax said without reporting the vote total.

Mr. Gorbachev gave a 40-minute speech on the situation in the country and the party to open the session in the Central Committee's steel-gray headquarters near the Kremlin.

He described the signing of a joint statement by the leaders of nine of the 15 Soviet republics as a great achievement. Interfax said.

The statement, splashed atop

Wednesday's front page of the Communist Party newspaper Pravda, endorsed Mr. Gorbachev's "anti-crisis" plan for holding the country together and preventing economic collapse.

Mr. Gorbachev and the nine leaders, including his main political rival Russian Republic leader Boris Yeltsin, also called on workers "to end their economic and political strikes and try to make up for lost production as soon as possible," according to news reports.

An estimated 300,000 coal miners are on strike, demanding Mr. Gorbachev's resignation and indexation of wages to compensate for inflation. The strike, which began March 1 in the Ukraine and Kazakhstan, has spread to all of the country's major coalfields and forced scores of factories to cut production.

Tens of thousands of factory workers were on strike Wednesday for a second day in Minsk, capital of the Byelorussian Republic, demanding higher wages and a special session of their legislature.

In his speech to the party meeting, Mr. Gorbachev argued that keeping the party leadership and the presidency together was vitally necessary for now.

Israelis kill Gazan

OCCUPIED GAZA (R) — Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian in the occupied Gaza Strip Wednesday because he looked suspicious and did not obey an order to stop, the army said.

Palestinians in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah identified the man as Hassam Abu Mor, 21, and said he was mentally disturbed.

They said a soldier struck Mor, who slapped the soldier back. The soldier then fired at close range and killed him.

An army statement said: "A Rafah resident came to the civil administration office and approached soldiers on guard in a suspicious way. He did not re-

spond to an order to stop and identify himself."

"He came closer and it appeared he was going to attack. The soldiers shot him and wounded him. On the way to the hospital he died."

Unknown assailants in the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Khan Younis stabbed to death Mohammad Ghattas, 45, a local school teacher they suspected of aiding Israeli security forces. Israeli police said they were investigating.

In the West Bank village of Dahariya, masked Palestinian youths ordered Arab workers off a bus about to carry them to work in Israel.

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Iraq: U.S. ban on helicopter spraying endangers harvest

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Wednesday it was in danger of losing most of its wheat and barley harvest this year because the United States will not let it use helicopters to spray insecticides in the mainly Kurdish north.

"If we do not have any spraying after 10 days we will lose everything," Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Abdul Wahab Al Sabbagh told a news conference.

He accused Washington of trying to wreck Iraq's food supply. "We cannot see any reason for this but only that the Americans want to make a bigger problem for our food and destroy our food," he said.

"We have explained everything clearly and scientifically but unfortunately yesterday we received a negative answer," he said.

The United States and its Gulf war allies have effectively put much of the north of Iraq off limits to the Iraqi military to protect Kurdish refugees who fled to Turkey and Iran when the army crushed their rebellion in March.

Washington and its allies, who are building settlements for Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq, have told Baghdad they will shoot down planes and helicopters flying north of the 36 parallel. Iraq has more than one million hectares under wheat and barley, about 80 per cent of its production, in the area.

Mr. Sabbagh said that unless the crop was sprayed an insect called ergaster would destroy about 80 per cent of the expected one million tonne harvest.

"Even the rest could not be used because it will be small grains with a bad smell," he added.

Mr. Sabbagh said Iraq, which used 10 small Polish M-2 helicopters for the job, had sprayed the area every year for the past 20 years.

If the insect was not controlled the problem would be worse next year and threatened to spread to neighbouring Turkey, Syria and the Soviet Union, he added.

Mr. Sabbagh said that even with a full harvest of wheat and barley Iraq still needed to import to meet its food needs.

All but essential imports are still barred by a United Nations embargo imposed after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The minister said Iraq needed to import rice, most of which came from the United States.

Farmers had planted extra seed this year and had used extra fertilizer to boost production because of the embargo, he added.

"After this (extra) production of wheat and barley we have to import some for the food. It is not enough."

He said maize and cotton production was likely to be down this year. Vegetable production was more or less adequate.

But Mr. Sabbagh said the government was having to give the Iraqis fewer rations than they needed.

Iraq was short of meat, of which it imported 70,000 tonnes a year, and planned to increase production. "Still we need to import," he said.

Lebanon's militias continue squabble

By Nadim Ladki
Reuters

BEIRUT — Lebanon's militias, which built up large arsenals while fighting a 16-year civil war, are squabbling over surrendering them.

The Syrian-backed government of President Elias Hrawi ordered all private armies, Lebanese and Palestinian, last month to disarm by April 30 so that regular army troops could gradually take control of all Lebanon.

Abolishing the militias is seen by officials and diplomats as the biggest hurdle in bringing lasting peace and stability to Lebanon.

Most private armies say they are willing to turn in their guns. But few weapons have actually been handed over.

Military experts consider the government's timetable unrealistic. Some political sources and diplomats believe that the April 30 deadline will be postponed.

Lebanese officials, while acknowledging the disarmament plan is facing problems, say they remain optimistic it will finally be implemented.

Political sources said delaying tactics used by the militias and recent signs of weakness from the government were apparently the result of regional concerns putting pressure on Lebanon.

One complicating factor, they said, is U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's search for Arab-Israeli peace during three tours of the region in the last six weeks.

"Lebanon is the mirror of the Middle East. Any development in the area imposes its consequences on Lebanon as all regional factors are active within this tiny country," one source said.

The government in its original announcement warned that Syrian and Lebanese troops would crush any militias which failed to disarm by April 30. It has since gradually backed down.

In a major policy shift, Prime Minister Omar Karami said two weeks ago that the army would not use force to disarm Lebanese or the estimated 10,000 Palestinian guerrillas based in Lebanon.

The only military equipment passed on to the army so far has been four vehicles from a small pro-Syrian militia.

Two of the largest militias, the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) and Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), have said they are gathering their arms in preparation for possible delivery.

But while the government insists weapons should be handed over the Lebanese army, PSP chief Walid Junblatt says he will only give his guns to the power which armed him — Syria.

LF sources are linking the fate of the LF's arsenal to the disarming of their traditional foes — Palestinian guerrillas.

Government ministers insist that what the Palestinians do should not prevent Lebanese handing over their guns.

However, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), as well as Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), contend that they need not disarm now as they are not even militias.

They say they are resistance groups battling to force Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and will disband when that happens.

Syrian-backed Palestinian groups say they are evacuating their positions in Beirut and mountains to the southeast. But their fighters will stay in the south and eastern Bekaa Valley.

Israel and an allied militia, the 3,000-strong South Lebanon Army (SLA), hold a "security zone" in the south. They maintain they will stay there until security on Israel's northern border is guaranteed.

Sudan says no famine, just 'food gap'

NICOSIA (R) — Sudan, forecasting food self-sufficiency this year, says it is not facing a famine, only a "food gap" which will be filled by measures already taken.

Relief officials in Khartoum say hundreds of thousands in southern Sudan, ravaged by nearly eight years of civil war and recurrent food shortages, may perish unless food is rushed to them. Some 7.5 million in the whole country are believed to need urgent assistance — 1.2 million tonnes of supplies — in 1991.

Only a fraction of that amount has arrived, and that is earmarked for drought victims in the western states of Darfur and Kordofan and the Red Sea hills in the east.

A proposed, U.N.-sponsored relief programme for the south, where 250,000 people died of hunger in 1988, is awaiting the government's go-ahead to start. But the Khartoum government

has been playing down the gravity of the situation.

"There is no more to this (reports of a famine) than a mere food gap owing to the scarcity of rains and measures had been taken to fill the gap," state Radio Omdurman quoted Sudan's ambassador to Egypt, Ezzedin Hamed, as saying.

He did not say what these measures were.

Agriculture Minister Ahmad Ali Qanif sounded equally confident of the ability of Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Ali Bashir's government to handle the crisis, a product of drought, crop failures and the use of food as a weapon in the civil war in the south.

Mr. Qanif told the radio that Sudan was due this year to be self-sufficient in sorghum, staple food for the overwhelming majority of Sudan's 25 million people. Self-sufficiency in wheat was also likely, he added without giving details.

Sudan, Africa's largest country, consumes about 900,000 tonnes of wheat and 2.4 million tonnes of sorghum a year.

The country's crumbling transport system and a chronic fuel shortage have in the past left pockets of hunger even during years of good harvests.

Like previous Khartoum governments, the military junta is suspicious of relief operations in the heart of its rural areas and in the south, where its troops are fighting rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

It has repeatedly accused unnamed relief workers of aiding the SPLA, undermining security and fomenting sectarian strife.

Local newspaper reports say Western voluntary relief agencies often attract Christian zealots who illegally engage in evangelical work and stoke dormant animosities between the Muslim, Arabised majority in the north and the animist and Christian population of the south.

A recent flurry of official statements in Khartoum emphasised the country's preparedness to accept foreign relief aid so long as it was "unconditional" and given in a "brotherly spirit."

A member of Gen. Bashir's junta, Pio Yukwam Deng, was quoted on Monday as saying that the government's priority was to feed the people and that it was ready to cooperate with relief agencies.

Mr. Deng, head of the junta's political committee, is the highest-ranking southerner in the government. Foreign relief officials say he realises the urgent need to send relief to the south, but they are uncertain how much clout he enjoys in a government dominated by Muslim northerners.

Gen. Bashir's junta, which seized power in a June 1989 coup, is known to subscribe to a militant brand of Islam. It also adopts an uncompromising stance on the question of the south.

'Iraqi oil equipment being taken to Kuwait'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq has complained to the United Nations that U.S. forces in southern Iraq had let "saboteurs" remove millions of dollars in oil-field equipment and supplies.

The material had been taken to an unknown destination, apparently Kuwait, Iraqi U.N. Representative Abdul Al Amir Anbari said in a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar circulated on Tuesday.

"I have the honour to inform you that United States forces stationed in the northern part of the Rumaila oil field have prevented the Iraqi personnel who work there from taking the minimum measures to protect the property of the southern oil company from sabotage and theft," Mr. Anbari said.

He said U.S. forces had "allowed saboteurs to commit premeditated acts of plunder and destruction."

This included loading dozens of large hauling vehicles, which bore no licence plates, with cement, stocks, supplies and equipment. The vehicles then set out for an unknown destination, apparently Kuwait, he added.

"Our belief that Kuwait is their destination is reinforced by the fact that the Americans have claimed that the property that was plundered before the eyes of the United States forces belongs to Kuwait."

Mr. Anbari said preliminary estimates put the losses at around 10 million dollars and called these actions a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty.

He lodged a "most vehement protest" and called for U.N. action "to put an end to such acts as required by the principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations."

U.S. navy to stay

MANAMA (AP) — The U.S. navy's top commander in the Gulf war said Wednesday that the navy will remain in the Gulf for years. Vice Adm. Stanley R. Arthur made the remarks during a change of command ceremony before departing for a return to his command of the Seventh Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan. He said the navy's mission in the Gulf will continue to grow. "Our navy's continued presence here represents the importance that our country... places on this region," he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

4 Israelis caught trying to bug Iranians

NICOSIA (AP) — Four Israelis caught trying to plant a wiretap in the basement of the Iranian embassy are to be arraigned in court, police said Wednesday. Local press reports said the four were caught around 10 p.m. (1900 GMT) Tuesday night in the basement of the downtown office building that houses the Iranian mission. The policeman caught them trying to plant wires in the basement of the building. When the four saw the policeman, one of the girls pretended to vomit and the two men held her hand, the reports said. Police reinforcements were called in and the building blocked off. Iranian diplomats were summoned to check their offices for entry but there was no evidence of that, the reports said. Police said they could not comment on all the details of the case until the arraignment was completed. Initial identification of the four was Davi Dabi, 40, Anna Dogin, 28, Lirvin Amit, age unknown, and a fourth man identified only as Mr. Soufian. Police said they were unsure if the four were covered by diplomatic immunity.

France faces loss on Iraq credits

PARIS (R) — The French government faces a five billion franc (\$850 million) bill in 1991 for export credits to Iraq that have not been repaid, officials of French export credit guarantee assessor Coface said Tuesday. Coface covered 11.4 billion francs (\$1.9 billion) in export credits last year, but faced a loss on a number of the loans, Coface Chairman Henri Baquiast told reporters. Some of those losses may be accounted for in budgets after 1990, he said. Coface, majority-owned by French state-controlled companies, acts for the state on a cost plus fees basis.

It does not bear any of the losses suffered on state assurance business. Coface announced a net profit of 158 million francs (\$27 million) in 1990, which it said was an increase of 23 million francs (\$4 million) on 1989.

3 found guilty of breaking embargo

ORLANDO (AP) — Three people, including a Spaniard, were found guilty Tuesday of attempting to violate a presidential order by smuggling one million barrels of oil worth \$21 million out of Iraq. The defendants were found guilty by a federal jury on two counts of conspiring to deal in Iraqi crude oil, despite a U.N. and U.S. embargo banning Iraqi exports following that country's invasion of Kuwait last August. "Our national security depends on the enforcement of executive orders under the international emergency powers act," U.S. attorney Robert Genzman said Tuesday.

"Motivated by huge profits, embargo violators aid our adversaries at the expense of our national security." Found guilty were Manuel Romero-Fernandez, 50, of Malaga, Spain; Ondina Maria Sosa, 54, of Miami, Florida; and Augustus Wolf von Hartz, 74, of Key Biscayne, Florida. Mr. Genzman said the three each face a maximum sentence of 17 years in prison and a fine of at least \$1 million. A fourth defendant, Manuel Olivares-Heredia, 50, also of Malaga, was acquitted by a judge last week for lack of evidence. Federal agents said the defendants had agreed to sell the oil for Iraq's State Organisation for Marketing Oil (SOMO). Under the scheme, which came to the attention of U.S. customs service agents last November, Iraq was to make crude oil available to the buyers in January. A vessel loaded with the crude would then be provided with documents falsifying the country of origin so it could pass the American blockade, customs officials said. The deal ultimately was signed for one million barrels priced at \$21 a barrel, or about \$5 under the per-barrel world market price at the time the deal was made.

Schwarzkopf lunches with Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — General Norman Schwarzkopf, just back from commanding the U.S.-led coalition forces in the Gulf war, Tuesday followed the lead of his commander in chief on how to handle the press. When President George Bush invited Gen. Schwarzkopf to the White House for lunch, both men appeared before reporters for a photograph in the Rose Garden, along with Vice President Dan Quayle and other top officials. Reporters tried to question Mr. Bush, but he invoked his often-broken rule against taking questions at photo sessions.

Dohuk faces tough road towards normality

By Walter Putnam
The Associated Press

DOHUK — Signs of the aftermath of rebellion are still evident in Dohuk three weeks after the provincial capital in Iraqi Kurdistan was retaken by government troops.

Many stores are shuttered, buildings damaged, streets are lined with trash and more than half the population remains in refuge across the mountains along the Turkish border.

Exactly what happened here, or why, depends on who you talk to.

The only thing that was clear during a government-sponsored trip for foreign journalists Tuesday was that it will take some time for life to return to normal in Dohuk.

A classroom of two dozen schoolgirls, 12 or 13 years old, smiled shyly as reporters and photographers were ushered in.

Most of them said their families had stayed in the city during the fighting. Two said they had just returned a couple of days earlier from Kurdish refugee camps about 50 kilometres to the north.

Fahela Hussein, the headmistress, said only about 200 of 500 girls enrolled are now in school, indicating most of the city's population of 100,000 has not returned from a mass exodus.

In courtyard interviews, one girl said she felt safe now. But Angham Al Zaki, 17, disagreed.

"There is no stable end to the situation," she said. "When we hear the news (on foreign broadcasts) we can't feel safe."

Laila Sa'eed, 15, said the situation in Zakho, a border town where the United States has set up a safety zone for the Kurds, "is not very good."

"The worst thing is the cold," the girl said. She said U.S. helicopters had provided the refugees with food, but there was not enough.

A teacher, Bayan Mustafa, said she had spent 15 days in the camps. She said that Turkish soldiers stole money from some of the refugees.

Her father, Miss Mustafa said, reported that he had returned over the weekend Kurdish rebels at checkpoints would not allow people to return to their homes unless they paid 1,000 Iraqi dinars (\$3,000 at the official rate).

Others also said that Kurdish leaders had discouraged refugees from returning under

an Iraqi government amnesty programme. The government said that almost 118,000 Kurds returned last week, mainly to Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk provinces which with Dohuk comprise autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan.

At the downtown market was a crowd of people, but not what would be expected on a normal business day. One man said people had been bused into Dohuk from other towns.

Another man brushed by two reporters, whispering, "Go to the other side (of the town). You will see a lot of houses destroyed by the army."

Government officials said the destruction in the city has been caused by saboteurs.

Mohammad Perous Rustam, the governor of the Dohuk province, said the rebels attacked early in the morning, March 14, with machine guns and bazookas. Some of them came from Dohuk, while others were from outside, including Turkey and Iran, Mr. Rustam said.

About 20 government officials were killed by the rebels, he said.

The governor said 80 per cent of those who fled Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk had already returned to their homes. He said those from his province, Dohuk, also would return.

"This is their country, their city," Mr. Rustam said. At Saddam General Hospital, a 400-bed facility serving the area, hospital officials said too early a return could spell disaster.

They said there are shortages of food, as well as medicine and medical supplies.

In addition, because the city's main water pumping station was damaged by allied bombing during the Gulf war, the hospital relies on water in its storage tank.

"If those people from outside the city return, we would not be able to serve them for more than two days," said Dr. Farhad Al Sulaimi, the medical director.

The hospital was the first building taken by the rebels, Dr. Sulaimi said.

During two weeks of fighting, we received more than 400 injured patients," he said.

About 50 died, including more than 30 civilians, the doctor said.

Iranian minister survives Majlis censure motion

TEHRAN (R) — Hardliners in Iran's parliament (Majlis) failed to sack President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's education minister in a shouting-match debate Wednesday.

Speaker Mehdi Karrubi, struggling to control the deputies, switched off the live radio broadcast of the session for several minutes.

The minister, Mohammad Ali Najafi, survived a censure motion 137 votes to 77 with 11 abstentions.

It was one of the most vivid displays yet of antagonism between moderates and hardliners in Iran's ruling Shiite Muslim clergy. The moderate Tehran newspaper, Resalat, described the censure motion as an attempt to "slaughter Rafsanjani."

Fury peaked when Mahmoud Doaei, a black-turbaned deputy who runs the newspaper Ertelaat, said an unnamed hardliner of the Combatant Clerics faction was in jail for a homosexual act.

The 22 sponsors of the censure accused Mr. Najafi, 40, of mismanagement, firing devout Muslim directors, failing to print school books on time and spending education funds to buy himself a Mercedes Benz.

In a well-publicised meeting with Mr. Najafi Monday, Mr. Rafsanjani gave total support to the minister, who has a masters' degree in mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He said the attempt to sack him could damage the morale of Iran's 700,000 teachers.

Some hardliners, including Speaker Karrubi, opposed the motion. One of their newspapers, Jomhuri Eslami, said the deputies had chosen the worst time, right before exams at the end of the school year.

Hardliners have lost much of their influence since supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini died two years ago.

Their last stronghold is the Majlis, where they speak out against Mr. Rafsanjani's moderate foreign policy and blame his economic reforms for inflation and other hardships.

A parliamentary committee report critical of the education minister was read out in Wednesday's debate, ending with a quotation from Ali, the first imam of the Shiites, referring to "louts."

"I want to introduce the real louts and charlatans," responded Deputy Doaei. "One of the leaders of the combatant clerics is in jail for a despicable (homosexual) act."

A shouting match erupted and Mr. Karrubi switched off the live broadcast for several minutes.

When it was switched back on the speaker still had difficulty controlling the session, repeatedly asking deputies including Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali to be quiet.

At the end of the debate Mr. Karrubi said while an accusation had been made against the unnamed hardliner mentioned by Mr. Doaei "there has apparently been a mistake — he is a very holy person."

In January, Health Minister Rafazel became the first cabinet member sacked by parliament since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The newspaper Resalat said on Monday hardliners had "drawn up a list of ministers to impeach one after another in order to deliver a telling blow to the government."

"But will our people sit down silent and watch a group in Majlis slaughter Rafsanjani... the dignity of the revolution?"

Defending himself over the car, Mr. Najafi told parliament he bought the Mercedes cheaply in an auction of cars abandoned in customs.

The previous ministerial car broke down several times. "Once I had to get a ride from a stranger on the road to Rasht (near the Caspian Sea)," he said. "Is there anything wrong with the ministry getting a reliable car for the first time?"

State Department official says U.S. opposes 'war crimes' trial

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States opposes the idea of a "war crimes" trial for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein because to try him in absentia might prolong his grip on power, a Senior State Department official said Tuesday.

Assistant Secretary for International Organisation Affairs John R. Bolton said "we have no present plans to find Saddam Hussein and bring him to justice," although he claimed there was no debate over the Iraqi president's culpability.

Under questioning by Congressman Lee Hamilton, Mr. Bolton said trying President Saddam without having him present might prolong his tenure. And the United States will not use military force to seize him for a trial, he added.

The senate last week approved a resolution calling on Mr. Bush to seek a war crimes trial through the U.N. or in concert with Desert Storm allies. The European Community also has called for war crimes trials, but U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has been cool to the idea.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Cartoons
18:30	Splendour Savage
19:00	News in French
19:15	Reportage about Bolivia
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Day By Day
21:10	Black Forest Clinic
22:00	News in English
22:20	Movie of the week
PRAYER TIMES	
04:31	Fajr
05:54	Sunrise (Daha)
11:34	Dhuhr
16:12	Asr
19:14	Maghreb
20:27	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifethel	
Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637185	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 627981, 683236	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932	
The Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
It will be fair and winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and seas rough.	
Min/Max. temp.	
Amman	14 / 25
Aqaba	21 / 32

JORDAN TELEVISION</

U.N. forces transit through Jordan en route to Iraq-Kuwait border

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A convoy of 105 trucks carrying hundreds of United Nations peacekeeping forces and their equipment stayed overnight at Azraq refugee camp Wednesday en route to the Iraq-Kuwait border where they will be replacing American forces and monitoring the buffer zone.

U.N. sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the convoy left South Lebanon early Wednesday morning through Israel and the Israeli-occupied territories before crossing the King Hussein bridge to Jordan Wednesday afternoon.

"We do not have the exact number of peacekeepers in this convoy but it is in the hundreds," the U.N. sources told the Jordan Times.

The source added that it was the "first really big batch of U.N. peacekeepers to come through Jordan."

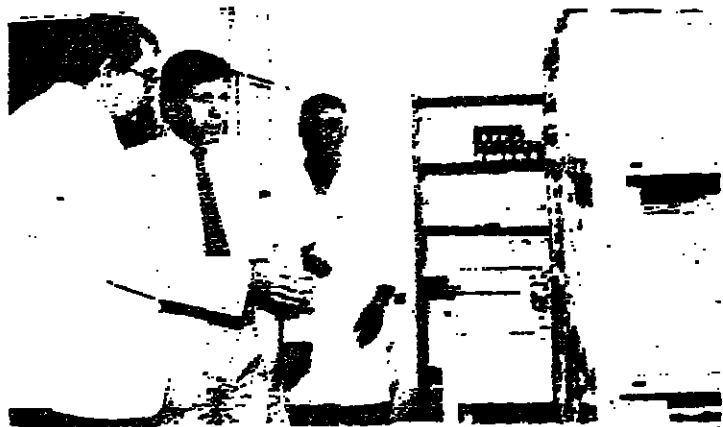
On April 14, a plane carrying the advance team of U.N. peacekeeping team officials from Larnaca to Kuwait, also transited through Jordan.

The convoy was scheduled to leave Amman Thursday morning towards Saudi Arabia before reaching Kuwait.

The U.N. peacekeepers will replace thousands of American soldiers currently occupying the buffer zone between Kuwait and Iraq but administrative affairs of the area will be handled by the two countries, including law enforcement.

The 1440-man U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) is to patrol a demilitarised zone on either side of the Iraq-Kuwait border.

This action is one condition of the Gulf war ceasefire resolution passed three weeks ago. A formal Gulf ceasefire went into effect April 11 clearing the way for the peacekeeping forces and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from southern Iraq.



Canadian Ambassador to Amman Percy Sherwood (second from left) Wednesday inaugurates a mother and child health care centre in Wihdat (Petra photo)

Canada helps build health care centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Canadian Ambassador to Amman Percy Sherwood Wednesday inaugurated a new mother and child health care sub-centre run by United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Amman's New Camp (Wihdat). The centre, which was put into operation late last month, was built and equipped through a donation of about \$150,000 from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) of the Canadian Ministry for External Relations and International Development.

In addition to this new sub-centre, UNRWA has in the camp a main health centre which provides to the camp residents primary health care services also including mother and child health care. The new sub-centre will

reduce the increasing pressure on the main centre and will bring the mother and child health care services closer to the inhabitants of the eastern part of the camp.

Present at the ceremony were Jawdat Sbul, governor of Amman, Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director-general of the Department of Palestinian Affairs, Franke de Jonge, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan, and senior UNRWA and government officials as well as a number of Wihdat camp notables.

Canada, one of UNRWA's biggest supporters, contributed \$8.7 million to UNRWA's 1991 regular budget. Over the last five years Canada made special contributions to UNRWA in Jordan, amounting to some \$1.6 million, which were used mainly for constructing health and educational installations.

ICRC sends 17th relief convoy to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) office here announced Wednesday that it would send its 17th relief convoy, consisting of 16 vehicles, to Baghdad Thursday.

It said that the vehicles carry 45 tonnes of diesel, 16 tonnes of powdered milk, 130 tents, 426 groundsheets, 456 cartons of medicine, 400 cartons of liquid gas and various other materials.

It said that two water tankers would join the fleet of other water tankers sent earlier to Iraq and placed at the disposal of relief personnel in Baghdad and other cities.

Two landrovers and two pickups will also be added to ICRC fleet of various vehicles operating in the Iraqi territory. These in-

clude 275 vehicles, 137 personnel carriers, 110 trucks and 30 trailers, the statement said.

The ICRC Tuesday sent its 16th convoy to Baghdad. It was composed of seven trucks carrying 62.5 tonnes of rice, 48 tents and 576 groundsheets, 7.5 tonnes of lentils, 240 cartons of medicine and sanitation material together with other relief items.

According to the statement, the ICRC delegation in Amman is now accelerating the rhythm of the convoys, which used to be sent twice a week. The statement said it was likely that ICRC relief convoys would be going to Baghdad at least four times a week, and maybe more, due to the increased needs assessed in the southern and northern parts of Iraq.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

- ★ Exhibition of fine handicrafts, weavings, quilts, on Friday, at the Abu Jaber estate-Yadoudah (open: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.)
- ★ Dried flowers exhibition by Hind Kundi Neweiran at the Royal Cultural Centre. (Opens at 10 a.m.)

SHOWJUMPING

- ★ Showjumping competition on Friday at the Arabian Horse Club premises, 17 kilometres off the Seventh Circle towards Queen Alia International Airport — 4 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Fahrenheit 451" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.



Her Majesty Queen Noor, in the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali and of Monsignor Giulio Oggioni, inaugurates a Jordanian mosaics exhibition currently on display in Bergamo, Italy

Jordanian mosaics exhibition in Italy aims at reviving interest in Kingdom's touristic sites

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian mosaics exhibition under the joint patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor and His Excellency Monsignor Giulio Oggioni, Bishop of Bergamo, is currently being held in the northern Italian city of Bergamo.

The exhibition, which is on display at Malpaga Castle, opened on March 16 and will run through June 9, 1991.

The 43 panels on display portray the development of mosaic art in Jordan from the first century B.C. until the eighth century A.D.

Featured are pieces from the Roman period, unearthed at Philadelphia, Jerash and Petra, as well as mosaic panels found at Madaba, Khirbet Al Sumra, Masab, Ma'in and Aqaba.

Queen Noor, who had been unable to inaugurate the exhibition due to regional circumstances, recently visited Bergamo in an effort to reintegrate Italian tourism to Jordan at a time when the industry has almost come to a standstill as a result of the Gulf crisis.

In official remarks at the castle, Queen Noor emphasised Jordan's importance as a centre of history, culture, antiquities and art and stressed the safety of tourism to the country and the importance of the Jordanian mosaics exhibition as the latest in a series of endeavours which allow the people of Jordan and Italy to interact through culture and art and to cooperate in all fields.

The Queen emphasised the importance of promoting greater people-to-people contact and mutual understanding between nations, especially today as the Middle East emerges from the human and economic ravages of military confrontation and massive human displacement.

The regional government of

Bergamo hosted a dinner in the Queen's honour, which was attended by the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gianni De Michelis, who, on behalf of the Italian government, welcomed Queen Noor's visit to Italy at this crucial time.

Mr. De Michelis emphasised the friendship and cooperation that exist between Jordan and Italy and expressed his hope that the two countries will continue to work together to solve the economic difficulties which Jordan is facing as a result of the Gulf crisis.

He also stressed the need and the relevance of political dialogue with Jordan to resolve the issues which have been a source of destabilisation in the Middle East.

Mr. De Michelis also emphasised Jordan's significant role, under His Majesty King Hussein's leadership, in maintaining and in promoting peace and security in the area.

Accompanying Her Majesty

Queen Noor in Bergamo were Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali and His Excellency Ambassador Hassan Abu Nimr.

Queen Noor has been actively involved in promoting tourism to Jordan and has officially opened exhibitions of Jordanian antiquities throughout the world.

The Jordanian mosaics exhibition has been touring Europe since 1985 and has travelled to Munich, Rome, Schallburg, East Berlin, Innsbruck, Lyon and Spilimbergo.

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities has identified that the Queen's efforts to promote Jordanian exhibitions abroad have yielded tangible results and have contributed to a significant increase of tourism into the country.

A statement issued by the secretary general of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Mr. Nassir Atallah, underlined the significance of Queen Noor's visit to Italy.

Court says there is no case against CBJ

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Wednesday denied that the Higher Court of Justice has ruled against a CBJ governor's decision to transform the Arab Finance Corporation (AFC) into an investment bank.

A statement by CBJ said that contrary to what was published in the local press Wednesday, the court accepted the CBJ views and said that such administration procedure on the part of the CBJ could not be contested.

The report in the press said that the Higher Court of Justice

had ruled against the CBJ governor's decision to force the corporation to transform itself into an investment bank.

According to Wednesday's CBJ statement, the Higher Court of Justice has in fact rejected the case raised against the Central Bank with the purpose of repealing its directives to the corporation made in October 1990.

The CBJ statement said that the court had rejected the case because the CBJ move was purely administrative and not final, and therefore could not be contested.

Jordan's stock exchange recovers after Gulf crisis

By Jane Arraf
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan's stock exchange, boosted by the prospect of renewed trade with Iraq, is bouncing back from the Gulf crisis.

"The market has recovered a lot faster than expected," Ibrahim Bilbeisi, acting manager of the exchange, said in an interview. "One important factor is Iraq."

The value of shares at the Amman Financial Market has recovered to levels reached before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August sparked a crisis which badly affected the Jordanian economy.

Shares of some companies, particularly industries which stand to export to Iraq, are trading at higher prices than before the conflict, Mr. Bilbeisi said.

Daily volume on the 13-year-old exchange has recovered to about JD 1.5 to two million after plunging to about JD 100,000 to 150,000 during the crisis.

Mr. Bilbeisi said the recovery had been fuelled partly by hefty dividends, distributed in the first quarter of this year, which reflected 1990 profits made before the Gulf crisis. Payouts ranged from 10 to 100 per cent of the par

value of shares.

Iraq, its infrastructure devastated by allied bombing during the Gulf war and internal rebellions has said it will channel trade for post-war reconstruction through Jordan.

Iraq businessmen have been in Jordan over the past few weeks making arrangements to buy everything from cucumbers to tractors, diplomats and businessmen said.

The U.N. trade embargo imposed on Iraq still bars trade, apart from food and humanitarian supplies with Iraq. Baghdad has asked the U.N. Sanctions Committee to allow it to export oil to buy essential imports.

Jordan sent about 25 per cent of its exports to Iraq before the crisis — a market which dried up after the Kingdom began adhering to the U.N. trade ban against Baghdad.

Jordan's vital trucking and shipping industries were virtually paralysed by the war while unemployment climbed to almost one-third of the workforce.

Jordanian businessmen are optimistic that exports to Iraq, while not making up for the loss of business with Kuwait and other Gulf countries, will increase from pre-war levels.

"I think the recovery of the Jordanian stock market is a very good sign," Mr. Bilbeisi said. "It shows that the companies listed on the Amman Financial Market are not out of Iraq's reach."

Mr. Bilbeisi said that large pharmaceuticals already began to export their latest products to Iraq.

Companies in the food and pharmaceutical sectors also began to export to the market, he said, adding that diversity remained a key to the East and Far East markets.

Mr. Bilbeisi said that volume on the exchange would easily reach the level of the eight years before the crisis, which traded at a peak of 267 million JD in 1986. The Amman Stock Exchange has been the market for about 100 Jordanian and foreign companies, funds, accounts and 10 per cent of the total investment.

Jordanian businessmen have also begun to export to the market, he said, adding that short-term investments of up to 35 per cent of the total investment in the stock market.

Jordan to outline housing policy in Harare

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the 13th meeting of the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), which is due to open in Harare on Monday, and will submit an outline of the Kingdom's endeavours in the housing field.

An announcement here said that Housing Corporation Director General Youssef Hiyasat would leave Amman Thursday for Harare, capital of Zimbabwe, to take part in the meeting which is expected to last 10 days.

On the eve of his departure, Mr. Hiyasat said that the participants would discuss, among other important topics, the world strategy for shelter from now until the end of the present century, which was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly.

"Jordan has declared its commitment to adhere to the world strategy as a general policy designed to ensure relatively cheap housing for the more needy sectors of the population," Mr. Hiyasat said.

"The meeting in Harare is also expected to discuss sustainable development schemes which include housing, improved standards of living for poor societies, planning and managing settlements, utilisation of energy resources and renewable resources with a view to reducing pollution to the bare minimum," Mr. Hiyasat said.



CROWN PRINCE VISITS RAF: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday visited the Royal Air Force, where he was received by RAF commander and several officials. The Crown Prince toured several RAF units and was briefed on the duties assigned to these units. Prince Hassan also attended part of the units' training activities.

Deadline expires for payment in lieu of draft

By Isam Qadmani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A government rule allowing expatriates to defer military service as long as they work abroad or pay \$6,000 in lieu of serving expires by April 30, and a great number of expatriates have expressed hope that the deadline will be extended.

According to many of the expatriates who have returned to Jordan from Kuwait, they can by no means come up with the required \$6,000 nor can they prove that they are working any more, since they are out of Kuwait and the Gulf, and hope that the government would consider their case with favour.

A large number of these expatriates has appealed through the media, to the concerned authorities, to extend the deadline until they can receive their savings and compensations from Kuwait or until the time comes

when they are allowed to return to work.

Officially, the Jordanian Forces Mobilisation and Recruitment Department, the Jordan Times that the government has not yet made a decision on the extension of the deadline for the payment in lieu of draft. The deadline for the payment in lieu of draft is set for April 30, 1991.

An informal source, who went to pay for the draft, said that the government would wait until the end of April to make a decision on the extension of the deadline for the payment in lieu of draft.

The official source said that the government would wait until the end of April to make a decision on the extension of the deadline for the payment in lieu of draft.

FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE

Registration is now open at the French Cultural Centre for the following courses:

- French language courses for adults (all levels)
- Preparation courses for the exams at Sorbonne University (Paris)
- French for business
- Arabic language courses for foreigners.

The registration will last until Sunday 13 April 1991 and the courses will start on Monday 23 April till Saturday 13 July 1991

For more information, please contact the French Cultural Centre
Tel: 637009, 636445 Amman.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Burying the past

THE ANNOUNCEMENT by Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani that Kurdish leaders have reached agreement with the Iraqi government to resolve the Kurdish problem comes at a time when the entire future of Iraq and its people is hanging on the balance.

One cannot but see the Baghdad agreement as part of the ongoing democratic process in Iraq — the lack of which was indirectly cited by many foreign powers to justify their campaign against the country, and by the rebels themselves as the reason for their short-lived rebellion.

Reason seems to have prevailed during the Baghdad talks, as it has emerged that the claim of the freckled rebels who got together in Beirut in March that they "represent" the Iraqi people's aspirations was hollow. If anything, they seem to have very little popular base among the Iraqi people, and the only direction they could take, if indeed they genuinely seek a democratic Iraq, is towards dialogue and national reconciliation.

The need of the day is to preserve the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Iraq, and all Iraqis, whether the Kurds in the north, the Shiites in the south or the Sunnis and others elsewhere in the country of 18 million, should join hands, regardless of their ethnic origins, to achieve this objective.

Burying the past and opening a new era should be the spirit of the Iraqi people, who have suffered enough and more as a result of the allied war against their country and the subsequent rebellions. The government has already signalled its readiness to serve the cause of national unity by announcing amnesty to the rebels and opening dialogue, and it would seem that the ball is rolling in the right direction. But the momentum should not be lost.

There cannot be any denial of the magnitude of the task confronting the Iraqi leadership and people, whose lives have been setback by decades with the massive devastation that the war has wreaked on the country. Iraq needs every resource it has and every capability its people have to maintain the course of reconstruction. But without national unity the country would only slide further towards an abyss from which there could be very little avenue of escape, what with the apparent free-for-all game that the allies seem to be playing in the country.

The unity of the people of Iraq will go a long way in pulling the rug from under the feet of the allied presence in the country. If indeed the allies' objective is humanitarian, what better way to extend help to the Iraqis — with no discrimination whatsoever — through the proper channel, which runs through Baghdad.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday commented on a statement by Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon in which, he said, that Jordan is the homeland of the Palestinian people, and should therefore represent them in any future negotiations. The paper said that Jordan also has a responsibility to end the intifada because, he said, it was one form of terrorism. The paper said such statements are ridiculous and aimed at aborting U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's current initiative to bring about a just settlement. The whole international community realises that Jordan is not Palestine and that the Palestinians have the legitimate right in their own homeland where they should be able to determine their future, and that the Palestinian land was usurped by Israel which continues to hold on to it, the paper said. Furthermore, it said, the Palestinian intifada is purely Palestinian, and Jordan has nothing to do with it and that it is designed to liberate the occupied territories. The uprising is a means of self-defence, and Jordan can by no means act for the Palestinians whether in the means of liberating their land or in negotiating on their behalf, it added. Sharon's statement, the paper noted, is aimed at closing the door for any settlement to the Palestine issue and the Middle East problem on the basis of the international legitimacy and the principle of exchanging land for peace. It said that Sharon's statement can by no means deceive Baker or any other peace mediator who would realise clearly the role of the Palestinians and their rights in regaining their own homeland.

Sawt Al Shaab daily cast doubt on Baker's mission and said that the secretary's sudden decision to leave the area and to go to Moscow could be a reaction to the outcome of his tour. It seems that the United States' feelings of optimism about a breakthrough is now receding, because it could not take speedy steps to arrive at the aspired for peace, the paper noted. It seems also that the United States is now confronted by an obstinate Shamir who is intent on aborting Baker's initiative prompting him to leave the area for some time, the paper speculated. Furthermore, the paper said, Shamir's statement entail rejection by Israel of any withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab land and total rejection of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 which provide for an exchange of land for peace. Israel for its part realises that Washington would never exercise pressure on it as it would not force it to give up land and realises also that Washington can exercise all forms of pressures and blackmail on the Arab regimes and subjugate them to the wishes of the Jewish state. For that reason, the paper concluded, Israel is adopting an adamant position with regard to the American initiative which is bound to end in failure if the present situation persists.

Changed days for Ruritania's dictator

By Francis Fukuyama

The following article is the last of seven articles on the new world order published by the London-based Guardian newspaper. Francis Fukuyama wrote a widely noticed essay, "The End of History," while working for the U.S. State Department. He now works for the Rand Corporation in Washington.

PERHAPS the best way to consider how the Gulf war will or will not create a "New World Order" of the sort envisioned by President Bush is to consider the problem from the perspective of a future Third World aggressor.

Let us say that you are the former Colonel Ali, now president-for-life of the Republic of Ruritania, who sat on the sidelines of the recent Gulf war. You have a big military and secret police force, bought with oil money, and even bigger ambitions to be recognised as the ruler not just of your current republic, but of Greater Ruritania, the historical homeland — now inhabited by a large population of non-Ruritians — of which your national poet sings, and for which you bus people into the capital every few months to stage noisy demonstrations. What are your options for realising this dream?

If you were a wise and sophisticated dictator, you would realise that the goal you had set for a Greater Ruritania was a futile one; that the dominant trend in world politics over the past few decades has been for countries to grow smaller rather than larger, by fracturing along national and ethnic lines. You would look with dismay at the prospect of using armed Ruritanian boys to suppress angry non-Ruritians, and would think twice about the enormous economic cost.

Moreover, you would realise that there are no military short-cuts to becoming a modern country, no escape from the dull work of economic development; that power and respect flow ultimately from the ability to create wealth. You would understand that those tough-looking men with Kalashnikovs guarding your presidential palace would not be enough to save you from your own people; that they could very well throw down their rifles or even point them at you if you failed in an important policy initiative.

Of course, if you were smart enough to realise all these things, you wouldn't be president-for-life of Ruritania; you would have completed your education, and perhaps even gone for a masters in engineering at the University of Michigan. So we have to start all over again to trace the thoughts of our hypothetical leader.

To a large extent, President Bush's demonstration of military prowess against Iraq will have precisely the effect he hoped for. That is, no president or Ruritanian in the near future will speak to the American ambassador the way that Saddam Hussein spoke to April Glaspie, telling her contemptuously that the United States would not fight. Of course, Third World leaders knew all along that they couldn't beat the U.S., but after Vietnam they figured that if they could impose casualties on the U.S. at even a 100:1

ratio, American public opinion might waver.

The casualty ratio in the Gulf war was more like 1,000:1 or even higher, and this not even a ruthless dictator can stomach. He will calculate in advance that overt aggression risks a catastrophic defeat, the undermining of the very existence of one's country, and death for oneself and one's family.

But in other respects, our hypothetical president may draw less benign lessons. With regard to military operations, the very totality of Iraq's defeat may actually stimulate the drive to acquire weapons of mass destruction and systems to deliver them.

This is ironic in view of the fact that the Bush Administration attacked Iraq at least in part to eliminate the Iraqi nuclear and chemical threat. But people will notice that the one Iraqi military system that acquitted itself in the war was the mobile Scud: they were fired throughout the conflict, and even after the ceasefire it was not clear that the U.S. had destroyed all of Iraq's missiles and launchers. They had a political utility that went far beyond their military value.

Third World countries may decide that in the future it will be futile to go to the huge expense of building an enormous conventional force but that they can short-circuit this process by going nuclear. Consider how differently the current crisis would have been played out if Iraq had possessed even a small number of nuclear warheads mated to their Scuds.

Nuclear weapons, or even sophisticated chemical-biological warheads, would have raised the possibility that even a single missile through the Patriot shield would have produced: not tens but tens of thousands of casualties in Israel and Saudi Arabia. Under these circumstances, the coalition's inability to destroy the mobile launchers would not have been an irritant, but might have determined how, even whether, the war was conducted.

There are other military lessons to be drawn. Paradoxically, offensive and defensive missiles proved their worth during the conflict: there will almost certainly be a race to acquire both kinds of systems in many unstable regions of the world. The criticality of air defence systems was amply demonstrated: while Ruritania could never aspire to purchase an air force equal to that of the coalition, it could do a much more convincing job of air defence than the Iraqis. Even concrete proved its value: while those hardened aircraft shelters and command bunkers did not ultimately forestall defeat, they lengthened the war considerably and made it impossible to target Saddam directly.

Our president of Ruritania could draw a number of political lessons as well that might



abet rather than deter future aggression. The first is simply to be smarter than Saddam. He will undoubtedly go down in history as one of the most foolish and shortsighted would-be conquerors in modern history.

The first of his mistakes was to launch his invasion at the one moment in the entire post-war era when the U.S. and the Soviet Union were inclined to work together. Had the aggression occurred in January after the partial return to power of military hardliners in Moscow, I strongly doubt that the Soviet Union would have voted for many of the 12 Security Council resolutions against Iraq, particularly Resolution 678 authorising the use of force.

Many Soviet conservatives are actively pro-Iraq, while others resent strongly what they perceived to be former foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze parroting Washington's line. And if the U.N. had not voted to authorise the use of force, the U.S. Congressional resolution supporting the President might well not have been passed.

During the Gulf crisis, the Security Council finally worked as originally intended by taking a tough decision on collective security. But that body is one of the weakest reeds of Bush's "New World Order": its future effectiveness will be entirely contingent on domestic politics in the Soviet Union and, to a lesser extent, China.

As long as the U.N. remains a collection of states with heterogeneous ideologies and values, its role as a brake against aggression will be limited.

A second lesson for our Ruritanian leader is to be a bit more subtle than Saddam in picking his form of aggression. Using conventional armies to grab territory has been "out" since Hitler's defeat in 1945, and the vast majority of international aggressions since then have involved support for "national liberation" forces, exploitation of ethnic religious or racial animosities, or terrorism.

Not all of these options were open to Saddam, of course, but even he could, and did, use the threat of force to blackmail Kuwait without having actually to go to war. A few terrorists operating on behalf of Iran and Syria were much more effective in tying up American policy than all of Saddam's 50 divisions: to this day, the U.S. continues to carry favour with Syria's Assad in the hope that he will use his influence to "moderate" the very terrorists he sponsors. If you can't even prove who's responsible for violence, you can't very well get the U.N. to condemn it.

None of this is meant to take away from the splendid success achieved by President Bush and the coalition. The fact that military victory has not solved the problem of regional aggression once and for all is hardly a criticism of the policy. But it

does suggest that what the American Administration has bought for itself is not a self-sustaining "New World Order" so much as time.

The deterrent effect of Iraq's defeat will be incomplete: it will wear off in due course, and will drive aggression into different and unexpected channels. The military victory must be followed up by initiatives to plug holes in the policy; for example by setting up a stronger suppliers' regime to prevent the transfer of dangerous missile, chemical, biological, and nuclear technologies to unstable parts of the world.

But in a way the most important conclusion is precisely that the chief foreign policy problem facing the U.S. and other coalition countries in the near future will not be new Ruritania threatening the international order. For even as one plots the thoughts of a Ruritanian dictator, one realises that there are few other countries in the world which possess the combination of military power, strategic location, oil wealth, and outright ambition of Saddam's Iraq.

The world has indeed changed in fundamental ways over the past generation: economics has become vastly more important as the basis for great power status, and democratic legitimacy has proved crucial to political power. Iraq is simply the latest example of the global crisis of authoritarianism that has swept the globe

in recent years.

Only a ruthless and repressive dictatorship could have conceived of the original aggression, and failed to extricate itself when given so many outs. Only a dictatorship would expose its citizens and soldiers to such avoidable harm, to the point where they would no longer fight on behalf of the regime.

The Gulf war was a throwback to the geopolitics of the 19th century when nations could plausibly solve their economic problems through territorial conquest; but in the modern world, the creation of wealth requires peace and legitimacy. The world's real business in the future will be those economic issues that were pushed to the back of the agenda by the war: issues like competitiveness, deficits, protectionism, education, and the like. And any "New World Order" will not be built upon abstract principles of international law, but upon the common principles of liberal democracy and market economics.

A large part of the world will be populated by Iraqs and Ruritania, and will continue to be subject to bloody struggles and revolutions. But with the exception of the Gulf, few regions will have an impact — for good or ill — on the growing part of the world that is democratic and capitalist. And it is in this part of the world that we will ultimately have to make our home.

Mr. Peres's mixed signals on peace

Judeh Shahwan

IN "A new fabric of relations between peoples," (The Jerusalem Post, April 12), Shimon Peres lays down certain precepts that denote new and positive thinking by the Labor Party leadership and even a change of "strategic vision."

Mr. Peres believes, and rightly so, that "relationships between peoples are more significant than the nature of borders." He adds that "the security problems today know no borders and time," and that "it is not grim developments along political frontiers," that will decide the fate of peace, but "the nurturing of a new fabric of relationship between peoples."

The Labor Party leader stresses that a political solution to the Palestinian problem has to be given priority over all other issues and that the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people is a

sine qua non for a final solution.

Mr. Peres also criticises Israeli leaders who are against ceding territory and gives the example of the Gaza Strip, where "Israel has been more of a policeman than owner."

From all this, we would conclude that Mr. Peres believes in the bottom of his heart that concern for the security of Israel should not be grounds for grabbing territories, and that a friendly relationship between the Palestinians and Israelis is the best guarantee for Israel's security.

But, unfortunately, the second part of Mr. Peres's article reiterates outdated views that are not in harmony with this vision of resolving the Palestinian problem.

Here, he plays the old tune of "keeping territory for security requirements." He ignores his own statement earlier on

that "the relationships between bordering peoples are the basis for security." How can you build good relationships between two peoples if Israel retains substantial parts of the occupied West Bank, including Jerusalem?

was more that of policeman than owner.

The only guarantee for Israel's and the Palestinians' security is a just peace settlement buttressed by solid international guarantees. Such settlement, based on reciprocity,

It is time for Israeli leaders to understand that security means peace and vice versa. If peace prevails, security for all will be achieved

How can Israeli "security requirements" be reconciled with the legitimate political rights of the Palestinians, especially after Mr. Peres rightly admitted that the status of Israel in occupied Gaza Strip

will remove enmity, violence, distrust and isolation, and bring friendship, mutual trust and openness.

To stress the point that the Jordan River should be the security border of Israel, and

Gush Etzion and other settlements in the West Bank should be security zones for Israel, is a manifestation and revival of the dead colonial policy of taking others' lands as a "security guarantee." It aims at dismembering the occupied territories and rendering it impossible for the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate political rights. This stands in contradiction to the views Mr. Peres stated in the first part of his article.

Moreover, Mr. Peres failed to mention Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which laid down the basis for achieving a negotiated settlement. The principles of non-acquisition of territory by force and withdrawal from the occupied territories are inextricably linked. How can one reconcile these principles with that of "acquisition of occupied territory for security reasons?"

It is time for Israeli leaders to understand that security

means peace and vice versa. If peace prevails, security for all will be automatically achieved. In this way, the new long-for fabric of relations between the Israelis and Arabs, including Palestinians, will be truly achieved.

Mr. Peres and his Labour Party, in conjunction with other peace forces in Israel, should wage a sincere, serious and well-planned peace campaign in Israel that is based on the principles he enunciated in the first part of his article, but which he practically gainsaid in the second part.

The Gulf war must provide a useful lesson in this respect. Those who called for Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, are advised to do the same in the case of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Every occupation must come to an end, and the sooner the better.

The writer is a lawyer in Bethlehem. The article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

Iraqis try to keep up appearances for children's sake

By Debbie Lovatt from Baghdad

BAGHDAD'S Amusement City (Madinat Al Al'ab) is swarming with children and families with youngsters having fun on the various rides.

Electricity has been diverted from other areas of the city to supply amusement city with the power it needs to operate for the three-day festival (Eid) following the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Iraq's power stations — which were bombed during the 43-day Gulf war earlier this year — are being repaired, but not all regions have their power restored, and for those that have, supply is often intermittent.

Arriving by bus, car and

truck, scores of children come with friends and relations to enjoy a day out at the fun fair.

Amongst the crowds of people most were wearing bright colours, and those wearing black as a sign that they are in mourning were very few. Ramadan has been a time for reflection and the Eid a chance to make a fresh start.

Along the road to the park entrance vendors have set up a colourful array of stalls.

One man sells bananas on the pavement, a woman sits by her home-made pink Turkish delight. Others sell cigarettes, eggs, nuts, fruit juice, sweets and sandwiches.

Young boys sit on the ground near scales hoping someone may want his weight checked.

Law prohibits children from working in this way, but when times are hard, the regulation is not enforced.

Amongst the attractions are a roller-coaster, merry-go-rounds, a big wheel, gondolas, pin-ball machines, boat trips, pedaloes, and a train.

Under normal circumstances the park is open Fridays and religious festivals. This is the first time it has been open since the war started on Jan. 17.

Dr. Sa'ad Rashad described coming to the park with his wife, their two

daughters and his brother's children as a "way of relieving tension after everything that we've been through, and a time to be happy that we came safely through the war."

Susan Al Ansari, a pharmacist and wife of Dr. Rashad said "coming here we are trying to keep up appearances for the children's sake. It is important to maintain the feeling not everything has been destroyed and this helps a lot when we try to rebuild ourselves and our family lives."

Competing with the sound of youngsters screaming on the nearby merry-go-round, Mrs. Ansari said she hopes that things will soon get back

to normal now that the war is over. "The children were very frightened by the bombing and are afraid still when they hear the planes fly over," she said, adding: "We've taken them out so we can spend time together as a family — they haven't seen their father for about three months. This will help the children get over the effects (of the war)."

Mrs. Ansari's main concern was re-establishing some kind of normality, but she said it was hard to readjust with planes still flying over. "When the planes fly over now it really frightens us all — it gives us a feeling that something is going to happen," she said.

Since the end of the war on Feb. 28 jets from the U.S.-led coalition's side have been violating Iraqi airspace. When the war stopped jets used to fly over at the same time as they did during the bombing raids. In Ramadan they would come over at sunset which is the time when families are gathered together to breakfast. At times they break the sound barrier and cause a sonic boom which sounds like an explosion.

Seventeen-year-old Amir Abdul Said, who was spending a day at amusement city, says he does not find it hard to enjoy the Eid. "I'm sad about what happened during the war, but these days of Eid are happy and I'm enjoying

them," he said.

All schools were shut for the duration of the war. "After the Eid I go back to studying and try to recover what I lost during the days of the war. I have to prepare for my mid-year exams in two weeks. I should have taken them before, but they were suspended because of the fighting," said the young student keen to return to school.

One group of teenage boys sitting on a lawn had brought with them tambourines and drums. Some were playing the instruments while others sang and watched their friends dance to the traditional music.

Even though they could barely be heard above the loud Iraqi pop music blaring

out from each ride, the boys were enjoying themselves.

The managing director of the Amusement City, Ali Ihsan Shawki, said: "last year about half a million people came to the park over the three-day Eid period. This year we expect half that number once we have made a final count rather than an estimate."

In Mr. Shawki's opinion transportation difficulties and the cost of the rides have deterred many people.

"Transportation is difficult because fuel is now rationed and expensive. The cost of each ride has gone up from 100 fils last year to 500 fils this year. All this is because of the price of fuel," said the managing director.

Egypt to replace historic museum to save relics

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

CAIRO — The Egyptian Museum, built when Cairo was the Paris of the Nile, has become trapped in a fume-filled, vibrating urban sprawl that may destroy the antiquities the stately treasure house seeks to protect.

Government officials plan a fund-raising campaign for a modern museum complex where the nation's 100,000 artifacts can be exhibited and preserved.

It is to be built on 77 acres (32 hectares) of desert 12 miles (19 kilometres) south-west of the chaotic city, with the Giza Pyramids as a backdrop.

Culture Minister Farouk Hosni said the choice of a site "is genius," and "the most beautiful museum in the world" will rise on it.

The Egyptian Museum opened in 1902 on a picturesque inner-city plaza near the Nile.

In the decades since, it has been surrounded by a mass of humanity, bedeviled by toxic fumes and traffic vibrations. Facing it across the plaza is one of the busiest bus stations in the city of 14 million.

"After 100 years, a building is declared a monument," said Ibrahim Bakr, chairman of antiquities. "This museum soon can qualify."

"It's in a very crowded location," he added. "The air is foul and the museum vibrates with the subway nearby."

Papyrus, wood, fabric and other fragile materials have suffered greatly. Even massive stone statues show signs of disintegration.

Hosni, a sculptor, said museums like the faded sand-

stone building in downtown Cairo were erected with no special forethought, "and objects were shoved into them."

"The new museum will be built with the objects in mind, how they should be displayed and preserved," he said in an interview. "We are the keepers of civilisation. The new museum will be a recognition of how much these objects mean to us."

An international competition will be held for a museum design, the culture minister said, and the cost of building the complex "easily could run in the hundreds of millions of dollars."

He said the government hoped money could be raised fast enough to complete the project in three years, and that tourist revenue would return the investment quickly.

So vast is the Egyptian Museum's collection that it has been estimated a tourist pausing one minute at each item would need nine months to see it all.

It houses two of the world's best-known collections: Objects from the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun, and the mummies of Ramses II and 25 other members of ancient Egyptian royalty.

The late President Anwar Sadat had the mummies removed from permanent public display in 1980 out of respect for the dignity of the dead, but at least some would be returned to view in a new museum.

Officials closed the Egyptian Museum during the Gulf crisis, for security reasons and because there were no tourists in Cairo anyway.

When tourism is normal, up to 6,000 people are inside

at once, making it difficult to see anything, especially the solid gold objects from Tut's tomb.

In the new museum, Hosni said, the idea is to "show some things well" rather than everything badly.

Early response to the fund-raising effort has been positive, Hosni said, and the earliest came from Japan. He said Japanese interests had expressed willingness to build a display area for the Tutankhamun collection.

"This is the kind of project that everybody is going to want to be a part of," he said. "This is not a luxury. This is a must."

Bakr, the antiquities chairman, said the museum "is a major step in the right direction" toward saving many of Egypt's endangered treasures.

Egypt, while part of the

Ottoman Empire, built its first museum for antiquities in 1863. Until then, objects from the rich past were stockpiled for presentation as gifts to visiting dignitaries.

In 1855, the country's entire antiquities collection was given to Archduke Maximilian of Austria.

Auguste Mariette, the French archaeologist who founded the Egyptian Antiquities Department in 1858, ended the practice. When Empress Eugenie of France came to inaugurate the Suez Canal in 1869, Mariette rejected her demand to take home the best of the new collection.

Since the current museum opened, the collection has grown far too large for display. Most objects are kept in warehouses, few are catalogued and each archaeological season brings more.

Mozart — loved in his lifetime, adored by posterity

By Robert Barr
The Associated Press

LONDON — Two years after Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died on Dec. 5, 1791, the composer Johann Friedrich Reichardt complained about "the inordinate fuss about Mozart."

What would Reichardt think now? For Mozart's reputation, living forever was the best revenge.

Mozart has extravagantly praised as a child prodigy hailed as an immortal when he died. He wrote in every musical genre, and by the age of 13, had written concertos, symphonies, sonatas and operettas. In 1771, he became concertmaster to the Archbishop of Salzburg, and in 1787 became Joseph II's court composer.

Mozart's death at age 35, the tales of the dark stranger who commissioned the requiem and the burial in an unmarked grave added romantic luster to a legend securely founded on more than 600 compositions.

"His body has gone from us, his soul has soared upwards to higher harmonies, and for our comfort he leaves the beautiful products of his mind," said a German newspaper report of his death.

When the Austrian composer was six years old, and already performing in public, Count Von Collalto distributed a poetic tribute at a concert in Vienna:

"Child, worthy our regard, whose ready skill we praise, 'Who small in stature, like the greatest plays."

"For thee the art of sound will hold no pain."

"Full soon will thou to mastery attain."

Franz Joseph Haydn, hearing three new string quartets by his former pupil in 1785, told Leopold Mozart: "Before God and as an honest man, I tell you that your son is the greatest composer known to me whether in person or by name."

Succeeding generations have given Mozart no higher compliment, but have repeated such praise in endless variations.

Asked who was the greatest composer, the conductor Werner Klemperer said it was Bach, or perhaps Beethoven. Not Mozart?

"Oh, I thought you meant apart from Mozart, of course," Klemperer replied.

Richard Wagner called Mozart "music's genius of light and love." Robert Schumann found "Grecian lightness and grace" in Mozart's G. Minor Symphony (no. 40).

Woody Allen, in the film Manhattan, cited Mozart's

41st and last symphony, the Jupiter, as one of his favorites for living.

Soren Kierkegaard, the 19th-century Danish philosopher now best known for having his name dropped in Woody Allen films, thought Mozart secured his greatness in the opera Don Giovanni.

In Either-Or, Kierkegaard became downright vengeful: "Immortal Mozart, Thou, to whom I owe everything, to whom I owe the loss of my reason, the wonder that caused my soul to tremble, the fear that gripped my inmost being, Thou, to whom I owe it that I did not pass through life without having been stirred by something."

Other listeners have other heroes, but only Mozart is adored as the transcendent genius, the next step in evolution. A radio station announcer in New York used to describe Mozart simply as "E.T." — the extra-terrestrial.

Peter Shaffer, who did so much to popularise Mozart in our time with his play Amadeus, put this in the mouth of Mozart's rival, Salieri: "God needed Mozart to let himself into the world."

In a short book about the composer, the German theologian Karl Barth playfully suggested that the angels used Bach's music to praise God, but to amuse themselves they played Mozart.

Mozart's music is bright and pleasant, a safe and popular choice for radio programming. It is music as light as his variations on the tune to Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, and as fantastic and profound as the climax of Don Giovanni.

George Bernard Shaw said his tastes were elevated early in life by a performance of The Magic Flute.

In our own time, how many people were converted by an encounter with a dreamy example of Mozart in the film Elvira Madigan, and then bought Geza Anda's recording of the whole piano concerto?

Who couldn't feel the power of that enormous, dissonant chord from Don Giovanni, and the poignancy of the Requiem in the sound track of Amadeus?

H.C. Robbins London, in 1791: Mozart's Last Year, suggests that Mozart's emotional openness made him greater than Haydn, his outstanding contemporary. Mozart "invites us to share his emotional world, he takes us by the hand, as it were, and leads us, ultimately requiring us to follow wherever he goes," Robbins London said.

Fido Dido out to conquer the world

By Philippa Neave

NEW YORK — A doodle. Fifteen lines scribbled on the back of a napkin one night in a New York cafe. That's all it took to begin the legend of Fido Dido, a funny little guy with a triangular face, an enigmatic look and hair standing on end.

Little did he know that night as he came to life under the pen of chronic doodler Susan Rose, that gawky and unassuming though he was, in a very short time he would be touring the world, a star in his own right.

Rose, now 37, and her long-time friend Joanna Ferrone who was with her that evening, realised that there was something special in the little face on the corner of the napkin. Five years down the road, Fido has become the star of a major international advertising campaign for 7UP soft drinks, and is featured on thousands of products — from pencil cases to coffee cups, clothes to hairdryers, watches, and bed linen — in 54 countries. "The popularity of Fido was very gratifying, but it was a surprise," says 40-year-old Ferrone, "it was very spontaneous. There was something in Susan's drawing that people could really relate to... and identify with."

Soon after the birth of Fido Dido in 1985, Rose gave up a successful career as art director with J. Walter Thompson, a major international advertising agency, and Ferrone took time away from her own business managing a stock photo agency to spend more time on Fido Dido. They started putting Fido's endearing face on T-shirts, staying up all night to keep up with the demand that grew as soon

as the first one was printed. A trend-setting boutique in New York's hip Greenwich Village was the launching pad for Fido who has since been sold by Macy's department store in New York, Harrods of London and Japan's exclusive Seibu store in Tokyo.

Under Rose's tireless pen, Fido Dido's face grew a body and a whole family of friends based on the same original graphic. The two women set up Fido Dido, Inc. (pronounced Fie-do Dee-do) as equal partners and began to dedicate most of their time to the cartoon character and his future. Fido has now become one of the most promising stars of United Media, the licensing company that also manages mega stars Garfield and Charlie Brown, and Snoopy and Co. of Peanuts.

"I knew we were on some sort of path, and I knew it was going to expand," recalls Ferrone of the early days. "With sales of Fido Dido merchandise produced by over 150 licensees around the globe (including Hasbro, America's largest maker of traditional toys and games, which recently introduced the Fido Dido doll at the Toy Fair in New York City), and sales expected to top \$100 million this year, Ferrone's instinct proved more than correct."

Part of Fido Dido's success resides in the philosophy he and his five closest companion embody. "There are a lot of messages we'd like Fido to convey," says Rose, "messages like, it's OK to be yourself, you should do things the way you think they should be done. But there are rules, like kindness: You can't do what you want to do if it's going to hurt some-

body." Although Fido is destined to appeal to an audience of teens and pre-teens, he is already appreciated by other age groups and has been dubbed a "cartoon with a conscience." Adds Ferrone: "In the world of children's entertainment there is a lot of super-hero approach... I think we are pretty unique right now. I can't think of another thing that says you don't have to be the strongest, tallest, and bravest to be a good person."

In the minds of their creator, Fido is the voice of a new kind of ethic, the "kinder, gentler world" some leaders have been talking about. "I know it sounds like a bit of a joke right now and I know it sounds idealistic," says Rose, "but this is what I really would like to believe: That the 1990s are going to be kinder. We are going through an awful lot right now as we enter the decade in war, with AIDS and other horrible things, but I think people are going to have to learn to be kinder to each other."

Both women point out that much of the cartoon humour that is being fed to children is based on violence. Says Ferrone: "All the violent action-packed cartoons are adults' conceptions of what kids want." There is no violence in the adventures of imp-like Fido Dido and his friends: Fido Doodles, an eternal enthusiast who takes up every worthy cause; F.D., a brainy aspiring junior executive; Fido's Fido, the dog; and Doody, a wise, out-of-work clown, among others. "They are all different, they are all worthwhile and all have something to offer," adds Ferrone. Each of the charac-

ters are variations of the Fido Dido personality: honest, open, accessible.

The Fido Dido philosophy is set out in the "Fido Creed", 10 simple lines: "Fido is for Fido; Fido is against no one; Fido is youth; Fido has no age; Fido sees everything; Fido judges nothing; Fido is innocent; Fido is powerful; Fido comes from the past; Fido is the future." One of the key ideas is that there is a little bit of Fido in everybody.

Says Rose: "In this world of super-heros and Ninja fighters, Fido's message is so much more positive, so much calmer. It is often hard to be funny when you're being kind and positive. People are used to laughing at others getting hit over the head." Nevertheless, the two partners do not seem to be short of funny ideas. Fido Dido recently jumped off the page and on to the TV screen in a series of over 120 skits lasting a few seconds. Known as "bumpers", the skits are used to separate commercials from the cartoons shown on CBS Television on Saturday mornings in the U.S.

At the same time Fido continues to grow under his own impetus as successful product lines carrying the Fido image expand. Every three months, some 1,500 new products pass through the hands of Rose and Ferrone, submitted or requested by licensees all over the world. The partners keep close control of the style, type and quality of the 5,000 or so Fido Dido products on the world market. While always vetting the "Fido-ness" of a product, they also have considerable input in its design and the choice of mate-



Artist Susan Rose created her cartoon character, Fido Dido, on a napkin in a New York restaurant.

rials. Adds Ferrone: "We have always been interested in design, fashion and style."

Although the company has spent close to half a million dollars to register copyright and trademarks all over the world, copies, or "knock-offs" as they are known in the trade have mushroomed, in particular in Asia. "The best protection against knock-offs is to have good licensees who make good, quality products that are so much more desirable than cheap knock-offs," Ferrone argues.

These days Rose has two drawing assistants to help cope with the deluge of requests and Ferrone's brother William has joined the company overseeing relations with licensees and marketing. In all six people work full time in the large, bright Manhattan loft that has become Fido Dido's headquarters. A couple of dogs, including Ferrone's small white and brown

mutt jump around in the middle of frenzied activity. Tall and erect when Rose seems small and made of bouncy rubber, Ferrone attends to the whirl of business with calm. "We thrive on it," she says of the hectic pace. "I would go crazy if I didn't have a whole bunch of things to do; it's so much fun."

Fido is poised to embark on another big adventure as Rose and Ferrone discuss plans with CBS for a 30-minute cartoon series for television.

True to himself, Fido Dido seems to have done things his own way. While most characters begin their careers in a comic strip and later take off commercially to feature on everything from coffee mugs to bedroom shippers, he has done it the other way around. "It is very fitting," explains Ferrone. "Because Fido never takes the typical route" — World News Link.

Gossip till you drop

By Maha Addasi

Did you ever wonder what invisible force keeps certain people's ears glued to the telephone? Or where lies the mysterious, inexhaustible source of words that keep flowing from one person's mouth into another person's head non-stop for hours on end?

It is none other than gossip, and it is usually the "bad," scandalous pieces of news that are considered the juicy conversation starters. Of course there is always a person on whom the scandal is about and which has to be discussed in explicit detail before everyone is satisfied enough to go to sleep.

Gossip has become an "art" many people proud to be professionals at it. Many people who may have smelled a rumour know who to call to get all the details. Indeed, people have single-handedly manoeuvred situations so that they are more interesting than most television programmes so that they have fun shredding people to pieces gossiping about them. But that is besides the point.

It goes without saying that anything triggers gossip. You could look at somebody in a wrong way and that glance could congest the phone lines with comments like, "Did you see how Sally looked at Cindy?"

"If looks could kill Cindy would be dead by now."

The non-suspecting person does not usually realise that come sunrise, everyone this side of heaven would have known about that glance.

Sally may even not be aware she stared at Cindy like she did. She could have had a bad day or she could have been in a terrible mood for some other reason, but come morning word is out that Sally is "sooooo jealous" of Cindy. That fact is finalised, the gossiping clan have decided that must be it and there is no changing that fact.

By noon-time the next day two teams have been formed. People who back Sally and people who back Cindy. Of course Sally and Cindy have no clue this is going on. They just each hear stray comments like, "I just want you to know, I'm on your side."

Two days after that, when the story has been so distorted, a leak trickles to Cindy and Sally. Just like the Chinese telephone game, the story reaches both Cindy and Sally in such a way that each one thinks that the other has been talking about her behind her back.

A confrontation is now inevitable. Each one feels she has been backstabbed. Now Cindy understands the reason behind that vicious look she got from Sally, or she thinks she does. Arms akimbo Cindy faces Sally. By now news had already reached all the co-workers and they materialise at the confrontation scene ready to cheer each side.

Push comes to shove, things blow right out of proportion and now Cindy and Sally really don't talk to each other. It is a hey-day for the gossipers. Now they have more fuel for their stories. Their conversations have more substance. They are longer and more "worthwhile."

The next step is simple. Those who initiated the gossip in the first place feel in their heart of hearts that they must let Sally and Cindy become friends again and they provide the correct conditions to put things right again. Cindy and Sally

And then what happened?



start to talk again but things are never the same between them.

Eventually the story becomes old news. The gossipers mentally file the story for future reference, in case he or she wants to start another rumour or gossip story about these two later in life, and that gossipers then proceeds to the next victim.

It is not just gossip that grabs the spotlight, it is mostly the bad news and the telephone, of course, is the fastest way for spreading it. You hear about somebody losing a job and that is how you know that that person had found work. The last you had heard about him he was having an excruciating time job-hunting.

I wonder what Graham Bell would have said regarding the abuse of his invention. Could his reaction be "I regret to inform you ladies and gentlemen that you have used the telephone well so I have come back to claim my invention. I want it back. Starting tomorrow there will no longer be any telephones."

The telephone is the number one instrument for spreading gossip and some people have obtained two lines at home so that they can catch up on all possible scoops of news in the vicinity. What did these people do before the phone? Why can't people spread the good news at the same rate they spread the bad ones? Scratch that. Why can't people be as dedicated to their work like they are dedicated to researching a rumour?

We can ask the question why until doomsday, but no matter how long we whine, gossiping, has become a hobby and pastime for some people and a passion for others. The premonition is that gossip is here to stay.

Perhaps gossip's appeal is that it beats reading a book because the protagonists are real.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, April 25

1920 — Supreme allied command assigns mandates of Mesopotamia and Palestine to Britain, and of Syria and Lebanon to France; Poland launches offensive against Soviets in the Ukraine.

1945 — Delegates of 45 nations meet in San Francisco, California, to organise United Nations.

1971 — Soviet space ship lands safely after docking with an orbiting space laboratory.

1978 — South Africa says it has accepted a Western plan aimed at preparing South-West Africa for independence under black majority rule.

1986 — Rioting breaks out across Soweto, South Africa's largest black township, following police block of youths protesting arrest of 15 students.

1987 — Sri Lanka military carries out two-pronged offensive against Tamil rebels.

1988 — Afghanistan President Najibullah offers to withdraw Afghan army from posts near Pakistan's borders.

1989 — Japan's Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, rapidly losing popularity amid influence-peddling scandal, says he plans to resign.

1990 — Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrio de Chamorro inaugurated amid uproar over decision to let Sandinistas keep control of army and security police.

1860 — Spain and Morocco sign peace agreement.

1872 — Civil war breaks out in Spain.

1885 — Britain occupies Port Hamilton, Korea.

1886 — Major powers send ultimatum to Greece to halt support for revolution in Eastern Rumelia.

1954 — United Nations powers meet at Geneva on Korea and Indochina problems during which they insist on free elections in Korea.

1962 — First international satellite is launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida — a U.S.-British venture.

1964 — African nations of Tanganyika and Zanzibar merge to form country of Tanzania.

1966 — Sidewinder missile, launched by U.S. jet plane, shoots down first Communist MiG-21 of Vietnam War.

1971 — White House Commission recommends that China be brought into United Nations, with Nationalist China retaining its membership.

1988 — Israeli troops and Arab commandos from Lebanon clash in rocky terrain along Israel's northern border.

1989 — Chinese students plan march to central Peking to protest government statements condemning their campaign for democracy.

1990 — Leftist Colombian presidential candidate, Carlos Pizarro, assassinated aboard Colombian airliner. Drug cartel claims and later denies responsibility.

Saturday, April 27

1909 — Young Turks depose Sultan Abdul Hamid, who is succeeded by Mohammad V.

1910 — Louis Botha and James Hertzog found South African Party.

1938 — Greece and Turkey sign treaty of friendship.

1941 — Athens falls to German invaders after 180 days of Greek resistance in World War II.

1950 — Communist Party is outlawed in Australia; Britain recognises Israel.

1960 — Syngman Rhee resigns as president of South Korea; Togo becomes independent republic.

1972 — U.S. Apollo 16 spacecraft and its three astronauts make safe landing in Pacific.

Sunday, April 28

1503 — Spanish destroy French fleet at Cerignola, Sicily.

1521 — Holy Roman Emperor Charles V grants his brother, Archduke Ferdinand, the Hapsburg possessions in Lower Austria, Carinthia, Styria and Carinola.

1655 — English fleet destroys pirate fleet of Bey of Tunis and released prisoners in Algiers; Protestants in Vaudois district of Savoy are massacred.

1789 — Mutinous crew of British ship Bounty sets Captain William Bligh and 18 sailors adrift in launch in South Pacific.

1876 — Britain's Queen Victoria declared empress of India.

1910 — Albanian revolt is suppressed by Turkish army.

1936 — King Farouk ascends to throne in Egypt; Arab High Command is formed to unite Arabs against Jewish claims.

1945 — Italy's dictator Benito Mussolini and his mistress are executed by partisans in World War II.

1954 — Premiers of India, Pakistan, Burma, Indonesia and Ceylon confer at Colombo; India signs commercial and cultural agreement with China.

1968 — Tokyo police restore order after 5,000 people demonstrate for return of Okinawa to Japan, and an end to Vietnam War.

1969 — Charles de Gaulle resigns as president of France.

1976 — India's supreme court upholds right of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government to imprison political opponents without court hearing.

1978 — Leaders of military coup in Afghanistan disclose that President Mohammad Daoud and several senior members of his government were killed when they resisted the takeover.

1986 — Soviet government reports nuclear accident at Chernobyl power plant and says those "affected" are being given aid.

1988 — Soviet-backed Afghan troops shell border areas and kill about 15 Pakistanis.

1989 — Students in South Korea fight police after authorities ban march to North Korean border.

1990 — Thousands of South Korean workers battle riot police to protest police attack that crushed a three-day strike at world's largest shipyard.

1918 — Germany's main offensive on western front in World War I ends.

1928 — British ultimatum forces Egypt to provide freedom of public meetings.

1946 — Anglo-U.S. Committee advises against partition of Palestine; former Japanese leaders are indicted in Tokyo as war criminals.

1965 — Australia decides to send troops to South Vietnam.

1975 — U.S. task force evacuates foreigners and Vietnamese by helicopter from Saigon.

1986 — Some Western experts say mishap at Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Soviet Union could be worst civilian nuclear accident ever.

1989 — Police arrest about 2,200 workers and students in South Korea to try to block labour rally.

1990 — Wrecking cranes tear down the section of the Berlin Wall surrounding the Brandenburg Gate, the wall's most famous section.

By The Associated Press

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 25

8:30 Day By Day

Life At A Glance

9:10 Black Forest Clinic

A New Arrival

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Friday, April 26

8:30 Night Court

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 Bergerac

The Company You Keep

Although Angela is married to a rich man she is always broken. So she resorts to stealing.

Saturday, April 27

8:30 No Job For A Lady

Take A Copy

Gene lays a hand on a copy of a proposed Tory legislation on health and instantly raises the issue in the House of Commons.

9:00 Encounter

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Sadie And Son

Starring: Debbie Reynolds and Brian McNamara

Sadie retires from the police force, but remains a dedicated anti-crime vigilante of the neighbourhood with a little help from her son.

Sunday, April 28

8:30 Mother And Son

The Promotion

Arthur wants to move out and take his reluctant mother with him and when he turns to his brother for help, the whole plan gets foiled.

9:10 All Our Children

Fighting For Health

Children's illness cases from different countries are discussed in terms of causes and cure, with an ironic comparison between rich and poor countries.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Paradise

A Matter Of Honour

A rich greedy rancher wants to use force to intimidate his neighbours and when

Ethan tries to stop him, the rancher hires a killer.

Monday, April 29

8:30 Empty Nest

Dr. West is finally convinced that he should travel abroad to rest his mind from work. And when he does he finds there other worries waiting for him.

9:10 Inside Story

Paula is having trouble with Mr. Green in running the paper, so she decides to prove herself in solving the case of the murdered British politician — John is impressed.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Derrick

Everyone is responsible for his own actions... no matter what or how long.

Tuesday, April 30

8:30 Charles In Charge

Charles' aunt is running a carwash and although she is lousy manager the carwash stands on its feet with a little help from her employees.

9:10 Costeau

Land Of The Living Totems

This time Costeau takes us to the islands spread out west of Canada and U.S. in the Pacific Ocean. We get to know something about its people and natural resources.

10:00 News in English

10:20 French Feature Film

Wednesday, May 1

8:30 After Henry

Out On A Limb

Grandmother breaks her leg and consequently life in the house is disrupted including Sara's social life.

9:10 Our House

Family Secrets

David comes across some children's stories his grandfather had written a long time ago. David decides to publish them to please his grandfather.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Behaving Badly

Home Fires

Mark's ex-wife accepts an invitation from her ex-mother-in-law to move in the house again. It turns out to be an invitation for trouble.



A scene from Derrick on JTV Channel 2 Monday at 10:20

Verbosity

By E. Yaghi

The stern magistrate sanctimoniously perched over his court savouring his fuming fury. With raised bushy brows, he said in the iciest voice he could find, "well now, you despicable thing, do you plead guilty or innocent to your crime? And to the noisy spectators he roared, "silence in the courtroom!"

The criminal, limp, haggard, and very guilty looking, stammered, "well, sir, your lordship, I... I... I, plead innocent!" He stood before his mighty superior, shaking and trembling in his very shoes. He dare not look up into the frightening face of his sage so he confined his gaze to the floor.

"Hal!" the dour judge said cynically. "You claim yourself innocent. Why, you're guilty as sin!" As he spoke, fire shot out of his nose, cooled only by the glacier in his voice.

In this forsaken courtroom, there was no lawyer to defend the sinful looking accused or shout in protest, "Your honour I object!" Instead, there was only a wave of snickering which circulated throughout the padded chamber of law.

Holding up his incriminating evidence, the judge dogmatically flapped a wad of papers in the stagnant mouldy air. "Here's enough proof to hang you! Either you repent and cease your violations or else we'll find means to deal with you effectively. And you call yourself a writer! Hal!"

"No your honour, I mean, yes, I do, your worship. I promise I'll try to be good!" cried the crestfallen writer who still shook in his shabby shoes.

"Try isn't good enough! Your meagre art rambles on and on. It is the policy of our publication to save space, so either you abridge your words or we'll make our own cuts! the judge said as clouds of smoke rose in the icy room.

"But your graciousness, sir," the stupefied writer said in a faltering high-pitched nervous voice, "my words are important, how can I condense my thoughts when every phrase, every sentence is precious and necessary for my story?" He fidgeted and shifted his weight from one leg to the other as he smoked his pencil and still kept his watery eyes glued to his feet.

His honour leaned over his pulpit with purple eyes and said in a chilled voice, "words are easy to snip. If you can't find a way to condense them then you'll pay the price!"

"But your honour, sir, your pages are full of wordy writers some of whom write huge pieces equivalent to novelettes. Some of your writers are imported while I'm a local writer, home grown, so to speak. Surely donating space to such as me must be more pertinent than foreign intransigents!"

"Silence! Dare you question me? You were told from the beginning that you are forbidden to trespass into that Never Never No Man's Land. Certain space is reserved for an elite corps of writers whose league is prohibited to such as you. We have already ordered the death sentence for some of your stories. We will not hesitate to surgically remove all words we deem either unfit or unnecessary! If you wander about under the disguise of writer, then condensing your thoughts and words should be a breeze," the judge declared as flames of black and blue fire yet jetted out of his nose and icicles formed on the bottom of his chin. He took his mallet and pounded his perch with great vigour, proclaiming, "The verdict for verbosity is guilty! However, your sentence is suspended and you are to report frequently to my chambers to see how you're writing along. Any more infringements will be considered gross violation of the code of our publication. Always remember those stories of yours which we sent to the writer's morgue and the writer's cemetery after we hacked them up in the shredding machine or smoked your words away in homemade cigarettes or lit bonfires with them and roasted marshmallows over them. You are dismissed! Court is now adjourned." And the judge disappeared in a cloud of smoke.

So, the guilty, despicable writer slunk out of the court amidst the sneers and jeers of the spectators. The jury was out to lunch so therefore did not participate in the court's decision.

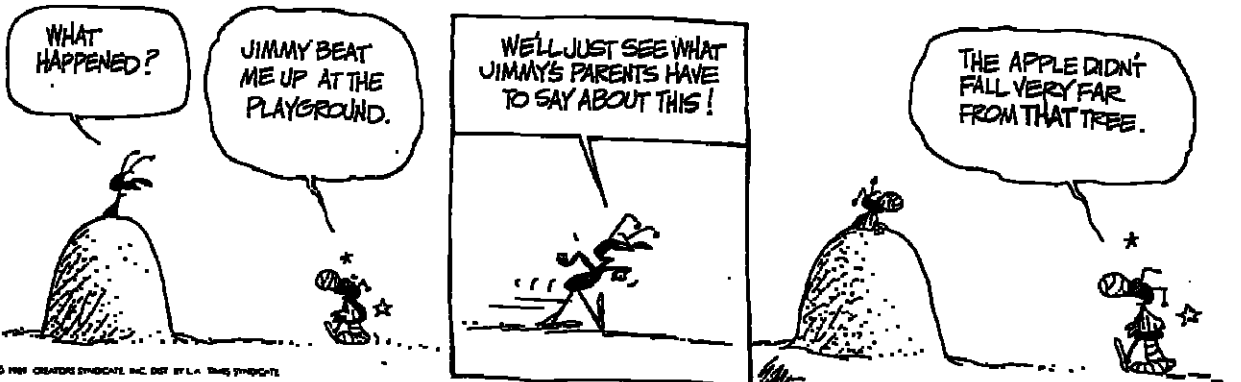
At the same time the judge's mallet had hammered down his verdict, it seemed to wrench a piece of wood in the writer's mind known to some fretful moulders of words as that dreaded contagious syndrome called "writer's block."

Dejected, rejected, sad and misled, the vicious redundant criminal slithered home to his den where in confusion he would yet again try to delve into that bottomless well that is said to exist in his disoriented mind writing short, short stories as he endeavours to please his judge, his jury and his readers with the horrible thought that his worst fears could manifest and he would face the hangman's noose.

Although his pride was singed by his magistrate's fiery outbursts and his hopes were frozen by that cold north wind that blew forth out of his lordship's frosty breath, the accused has vowed to rehabilitate himself or else he must be reconciled to join a club known as "wordy writers anonymous."

The diffident might yet be sitting into the deep of night scratching his head, trying to compose pictures of words painted from the fruits of his thoughts which blossom out of the flowers planted in his heart. Clouds of phrases circulate in the cobwebs of his mind as by a dim candle he puts forth his humble talents to his silent but cherished audience, his fiery judge and his now muted truant jury who are always unavailable for comment. In his hand he forever bears the torch of concern trying to cross the channel of communication whether his works consist of saga or personal obituary as might be the case in hand.

B.C.



Opera's superstar tenors looking for challenges

By Mary Campbell
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Opera's two superstar tenors, Luciano Pavarotti and Plácido Domingo, are putting their voices to a challenge, singing heavier roles than they normally do.

Pavarotti admits he's scared; Domingo declines to talk about it.

Pavarotti is appearing in the title role of Verdi's *Otello* in concert in Sir Georg Solti's final appearances as music director of the Chicago Symphony.

Domingo took the title role when the Metropolitan Opera's new production of Wagner's *Parsifal* opened on March 14, his first *Parsifal* anywhere.

The parts are among opera's most wearing for tenors.

Anyone who has cheered himself hoarse at a sports event knows what can happen when a voice is pushed to too much volume. Do it too often and permanent damage can result. Operatic tenors

whose superstar status depends on dulcet tones have to be even more careful about straining their voices.

American tenor Richard Tucker sang right up until his death at age 61 and sounded wonderful. He attributed it to knowing what operatic roles suited his voice and sticking to them.

Pavarotti, 55, and Domingo, 50, are deliberately not taking the safer road followed by Tucker.

Pavarotti said he had been offered *Otello* for 10 years. "I always say it's too heavy. I think it is too heavy, too. Will I hurt my voice? That's the worry that's there. Honestly speaking, I think that's my worry," he said.

"But now we make a celebration of Maestro goodbye to this wonderful orchestra in Chicago. It is going to be recorded live by Decca. That's the reason why we are doing it."

Sir Georg says he doesn't expect Pavarotti's voice to be harmed by singing *Otello*. "He has absolutely no vocal



Luciano Pavarotti

problems. I think it will be all right. He can sing it," Solti said.

Domingo turned down re-

quests to talk about his role as *Parsifal*, saying he was too busy.

Pavarotti started as a lyric

tenor, his voice high, clear, flexible and sweet. He was perfectly cast opposite Joan Sutherland in bel canto operas where the sound of the high, brilliant arias was more important than the story.

Domingo began with a heavier voice, one able to sing operas with a larger, louder orchestra and still be heard as beautifully musical rather than bellowing. He became a star in New York at 25 when he sang the title role in Ginastera's dramatic *Don Rodrigo*. He was immediately hired by the Hamburg Opera, where Rolf Liebermann cast him in lighter roles, fearing a steady diet of Don Rodrigo would ruin him.

Voices usually darken as the singer gets older and they usually get heavier and stronger, better able to sustain big roles in very long operas.

But tempting offers to sing heavier roles in prestigious places often come before the voice is ready.

Pavarotti and Domingo, however, have taken chances

before.

Pavarotti opened the Met season in 1976 as Manrico in *Il Trovatore* amid dire predictions that he was doing it too soon and that the strong Verdi role, concentrating on the deeper, lower end of his register, would roughen his bel canto sound.

Domingo took on the title role of *Otello* in 1975 in Hamburg, Germany. That's Verdi's heaviest tenor role, requiring the voice and stamina of a Wagnerian dramatic tenor. Most tenors who have sung it successfully have a baritone quality and some started their careers as baritones. Predictions abounded that Domingo was singing it too young and would ruin his voice.

Domingo did worry about singing *Otello*. So, between his second and third appearances in that opera, he scheduled the lighter role of Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, to test whether he was in vocal trouble. He had no difficulty that evening, at least with his voice — when he was brought

out of the dungeon and thrown to the floor, he hit his nose and added a nosebleed to the fake blood on his shirt.

In his book, "my first 40 years," Domingo wrote that singing *Otello* "revealed to me a new way of singing that has made the rest of my repertoire much easier for me."

Pavarotti also had taken Verdi roles and still sung bel canto. Wear and tear was beginning to be heard in his voice a couple of years ago, but in the current season he has sounded glorious.

Domingo has continued to sing *Otello*, deepening his interpretation and retaining his vocal sheen.

Pavarotti isn't turning to heavier roles permanently. He will sing bel canto in *The Elixir of Love* at the Met next season.

He says he could have made a career of only bel canto roles.

"But I love Verdi very much," he said. "I think a tenor of my voice should not stay without singing *Un Ballo*



Plácido Domingo

In *Maschera* now, *La Trovatore* is very low written. It can be avoided. But there is a kind like *Ballo* that are indispensable for the lyric voice. I think they are the test to see who you are."

He said he wasn't as worried about the challenge of singing in *Trovatore* in 1976 as he was by this year's *Otello*.

"But I was careful enough that I don't have made many performances. I just made probably 50 performances altogether of that opera," he said.

"So I think *Otello* will be maybe four, then is over. If I have trouble, I will have the summer to rest."

The dream of a European film centre Babelsberg Studios seek new assignments

By Herbert Heinzemann

BERLIN — On the first New Year's Eve in a reunited Germany, German Television transmitted a benefit programme in which an unusually large number of prominent persons made their appearance. They were stars from television and screen. Even Marlene Dietrich, whose legendary rise to international stardom began once upon a time in the film *Blue Angel*, phoned in from the Paris hideaway where she is spending her grand old age. She recalled her first international screen success which had been made 60 years ago where the TV cameras were now standing. And she made a declaration of love to the studio, the object of the benefit show: the DEFA Studio in Berlin-Babelsberg, the heir to the once famous German UFA Studio.

The DEFA Studios, state production centre of the former East German motion picture industry, is now faced with a survival crisis following the merging of the second German state with the Federal Republic. For cultural and economic reasons, however, the Federal Government in Bonn is interested in the studios in Babelsberg, so steeped in tradition.

According to a statement by Claus Beckmann, parliamentary undersecretary of state at the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs, the creative potential for audiovisual production in Germany and Europe should be preserved. Bonn is to initially provide promotion funds to the tune of DM 3 million for the production of six to seven feature films.

DEFA was a product of the partition of Germany. As the "German Film Corporation," it was granted a Soviet licence to make films in May 1946 and was thus the first newly-founded German film company after the war. The world-renowned UFA (Universal Film-AG) was broken up because it had allowed itself to be harnessed to Joseph Goebbels's propaganda machinery during the Third Reich. Invidious films such as "Hitlerjunge Quex" (The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari), "Der Golem" or "Metropolis" — all of which helped the German film industry to acquire international recognition. These studios were largely in ruins at the end of the war; the technical equipment had been stolen or had just vanished. But work



The film *Blue Angel* came from the Babelsberg Studios near Berlin. With this international success, Marlene Dietrich (seen here with Emil Jannings in a scene from the film), the German

soon recommenced in Babelsberg. Wolfgang Staudte produced the first post-war German film: "Die Mörder Sind Unter Uns" (The Murderers Are Among Us).

Even though DEFA had to rebuild the technical infrastructure for the production of motion pictures, it nevertheless had studio space dating from UFA times at its disposal: Over 100 acres located amidst old Brandenburg pines and turn-of-the-century villas in Art Nouveau style. New studios were added. As time passed, more than 600,000 items were amassed by the props department. It is a studio complex which could easily stand comparison with Cinecittà in Rome or Pinewood in London. In latter years, 2,450 persons were employed here; in the documentary department alone, there was a staff of some 900.

Since 1953, DEFA has operated as a nationalised enterprise (VEB); as such it was an instrument serving the state objectives of the East German government. Film production was to serve the supreme goal of "the development of the foundations of socialism." The manner in which this was to be achieved, however, remained a fiercely controversial issue. In the GDR's cultural policy over a period of forty years. The initially prescribed style of "Socialist realism" turned out to be too open to interpretation. As in the case of art production, undulating movements are discernible in the film-making sector.

Phases of strict state regimentation alternated with periods of greater liberality which were skillfully exploited by film directors to build in slight recalcitrant touches or satirical sideswipes at the system.

When the SED regime finally "abdicated" in 1990, many an angry review of East German film productions tended to throw the baby out with the bathwater. One East German film critic maintained that it had been "a popular stamping ground for the ignorance and incompetence of the system." As a matter of fact, however, DEFA produced quite a few respectable films which particularly distinguished themselves — ahead of many a West German production — with their more convincing scripts. Writing under conditions subjected to censorship apparently gave style greater bite.

The double-standards and two-facedness of the activity at DEFA are best illustrated by Kurt Maetzig, one of the founding fathers of the Babelsberg Studios. He also created the East German newsreel "Das Augenzeugen" (The Eye-Witness) which was intended to encourage the public to form its own opinion. It soon became dogmatic, however, and was known as "Das Matschaugen" (Black Eye) in the vernacular. For a time, Maetzig was the principal of the College of Film and Television at Babelsberg, prominent cultural politician and the director of 20 feature films. These include bad

screen star, began her legendary career. Until unification, the former UFA studios were the production centre for DEFA, the GDR film company.

Socialist-realist concoctions such as the epic in two parts about Ernst Thälmann, the Communist Party leader, who was put to death in a concentration camp.

Even so, despite such "state-supporting" productions, Maetzig was one of the prominent victims of the sudden change of climate in cultural policy in 1965. That year, at the 11th plenary session of the SED, the "mood of awakening," which had been aroused among East German filmmakers, was scotched — following the 20th Communist Party Conference in the Soviet Union and Khrushchev's settlement of accounts with Stalinism.

It was Erich Honecker in person, the future chairman of the East German Council of State — who often wrote as an amateur film critic (with disastrous official consequences) in the party newspaper Neues Deutschland — who called for an end to liberal DEFA film projects.

Now, following the demise of East Germany, the future looks gloomy for the production centre in Babelsberg — which wants to be something more than just a museum for UFA's past glory. Operations are guaranteed until the spring of 1991; work is currently going on on eight productions and are being financed on the old basis of public subsidies. In the meantime, the "Treuhändanstalt" — the agency set up by the united German government to transform the economy of the eastern part — is making

every effort to privatise DEFA. The question is whether it can be retained as a studio complex, or whether it should be sold to banks (its main attraction lies in its value as real estate). Creative artists in the old and new Bundesländer of the Federal Republic of Germany support the preservation of DEFA — if only for reasons of traditions — as not least shown by the television on New Year's Eve. West German comedian Loriot spontaneously transferred production of his latest film to the DEFA studios. Otherwise, however, the demand for the studio capacities is still not great enough. At best, efforts are being made to recruit cheap labour from among the confused DEFA workforce. If DEFA is to survive, it will have to be transformed into a free-enterprise concern. At all events, it will have to "slim down." The closure of the full-operational studios and reducing it to its mere value in terms of capital, must not only be prevented because of the Babelsberg tradition. It should also be done in the interest of Berlin which could now, at long last, compete with the self-appointed "media-capital of Munich."

In February 1990, Kurt Maetzig envisaged the future of DEFA as follows: "Unity cannot be checked. It will result in the United States of Europe. Then Babelsberg could become the largest European film studio, the centre of the European motion picture industry." Nothing more than a dream? — In Press.

By Santosh Basak
The Associated Press

CALCUTTA — The filming of *City of Joy*, the story of a Calcutta rickshaw puller and an American doctor, would make a good movie itself. It would have courtroom drama, politics, violent rallies and death.

In a city that loves films, none has aroused passions like this one.

Demonstrators besieged the set. Lawyers went to the state supreme court trying to stop filming. Two national governments vetted the script, which underwent 13 rewrites. Now, two Indian officials are observing the shooting to make sure it sticks to the approved text.

The project has exposed the self-consciousness of this city of 10 million people, where an estimated 43 per cent live in slums and another 300,000 people are homeless.

Critics say the movie exploits the city's poverty. A state attorney in one case said the story created the impression that Calcutta is a city of lepers, eunuchs, pimps, prostitutes and criminals.

Controversy heightened after a journalist from a Bengali-language newspaper was injured in a scuffle in February, allegedly by members of the film crew. Two days later he died. Doctors listed the cause as cancer, but his paper claimed his death was hastened by the fight.

The film is directed by Roland Joffe, who also directed *The Killing Fields* and *The Mission*. Scheduled for release in December, it stars Patrick Swayze, of *Ghost* and *Dirty Dancing*, Pauline Collins of *Shirley Valentine*, and two of India's top stars, Om Puri and Shabana Azmi.

The film's pricetag was not revealed, but the cost of its set — built last summer for \$1.1 million — has discouraged thoughts of changing locations.

The movie is based on the 1986 novel by Dominique Lapierre depicting life in one of Calcutta's worst areas: Ananda Nagar, which is Bengali for "city of joy."

Swayze plays an American doctor who comes to India to find inner peace and is helped by a rickshaw puller — Puri — when he runs into trouble in Calcutta's streets. The doctor works in a clinic in the slum, which is controlled by the slumlord's son and his gang of thugs. Disillusioned, he decides to leave Calcutta for good, but turns back at the airport out of commitment to the neighbourhood.

Calcuttans have been sensitised to world attention, especially on Mother There-



Patrick Swayze

sa, the Noble Prize-winning nun called "the saint of the gutters" for rescuing the destitute.

At first, Lapierre was cheered in Calcutta for earmarking part of the book's profits for a fund for leprosy-stricken children. The book was translated into 36 languages and sold 6 million copies.

But critics gumbled over what they said were inaccuracies and misleading scenes, and objections grew louder when the film was proposed.

Permission for filming was given in 1989 by the federal government, then headed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The state government of West Bengal, headed by Marxist rivals of Gandhi's Congress Party, opposed the project but said its objections were ignored.

Demonstrations and harassment of filming were said to have been organised by the Communist Party, arousing suspicions of political motives.

Last month demonstrators threw gasoline bombs toward the film crew, in what news reports said was an attempt to scare away the unit. Shooting was halted the next day when police said they couldn't guarantee security.

Buddhadev Bhattacharya, the state's information minister, denounced the book as "insulting to a Calcuttan's dignity" and said the story was based on the "racist stand of a white man."

Others say such criticism is absurd. "It is nauseous hypocrisy to applaud Indian films with stark portrayals of poverty ... and berate foreigners, if they happen to be

white, for daring to tackle the subject," wrote Premee Addy, in the Calcutta daily, the Statesman.

Co-producer Iain Smith said virtually nothing is left of Lapierre's story in the final script. "We are making the film with good will and not to hurt people's feelings," he said.

"The film will focus on the values of human understanding and the triumph of human spirit over all odds and obstacles," he said in an interview.

The point of the movie is that "we are all the same all over the world, whatever may be our culture, language, colour."

Last month, the state government supported a private petition by six Calcutta lawyers to halt production, but later withdrew its objections.

Meantime, the court halted outdoor shooting for two weeks while it deliberated a petition that claimed the film was disrupting normal life in the city.

It then declared that outdoor filming could resume — but only on Sundays and holidays. It also ruled that the film should not hurt the religious, cultural or social sentiments of the people of Calcutta.

The private petition to halt the shooting is still pending.

Most of the movie is being shot in the set of shacks and huts made from tin, mud stone and wood. It was so realistic that Production Manager Philip Kohler said last year that for a time, homeless people were camping nearby hoping to move in.

On the cutting edge in fitness training

By Philippa Neave

NEW YORK — If you thought those contraptions in the gym with their clanking weights and pulleys look like torture machines, think again, because the latest in the fitness craze are a series of new machines that are even more frightening. There's no more cheating now: These machines are very smart. Built-in computers, complete with elaborate software, keyboard and screen register your every move and plot your performance on a graph.

The latest generation of highly-sophisticated exercise machines has done away with metal weights and ball bearings. While the basic design remains the same, the new machines work with whisper-soft electro-magnetic resistance instead of weight blocks. At the touch of a button on the computer keyboard, fitness trainers set the degree of effort you will have to furnish by programming the resistance you will be working against as you bicycle, row, jog or exercise your pectorals. At the end of the session, a computer print-out shows performance, areas of strength and weakness, and the amount of calories burned.

"These are the ultimate machines and this is what we're going to be seeing everywhere in the year 2,000," predicts Bill McGinley, a representative of Universal, one of the leading manufacturers of the futuristic equipment. "Most people now want to see results on a piece of paper, they want more than just a trainer to sit there and tell them they look good. They want proof of their performance."

McGinley, club owners and other professionals claim that this is the age when "exercise science" as they like to call fitness training, has never been more advanced. Says Michael Motta,

owner of Plus One Fitness Clinics in Manhattan: "Everything we do is based on science and medicine, not myth or history." Motta's three "clinics" around the city are equipped with the latest state-of-the-art machines and provide highly personalised training services to clients who have become more and more demanding. At the top end of the hundreds of health clubs in New York, Motta's clinics cater for singer Madonna, movie stars Glen Close and Robin Williams, and some of Wall Street's top executives.

"What we provide is an integration of sports medicine and exercise science," adds 38-year-old Motta. "We give our clients the sort of attention and training professional athletes get." Clients initially undergo extensive tests and performance evaluations to establish their state of health. A personalised programme is then designed by Motta's team of professional trainers.

The latest equipment generally consists of a set of up to 11 different machines, linked through a computerised circuit, that are designed to exercise different parts of the body. Each machine can be programmed to each individual's work-out needs. Clients log into the system with a magnetic card that looks like a credit card and the machine's computer is fed the programme designed for them by their personal trainer. "With this equipment, we have more control and we get immediate feedback," adds Motta. As the user becomes fitter, the machines are gradually re-programmed for more strenuous exercise.

Hospitals around the United States and Japan are increasingly investing in this type of equipment for their physiotherapy clinics. And although the equipment is expensive (approximately \$100,000 for a full set of

machines), manufacturers point out that increasing numbers of corporations are interested in investing for their in-house fitness facilities because the computerised readouts allow them to monitor their employees' state of health.

If that sounds like an intrusion into your privacy, you may have to grin and bear it because many corporate employers are beginning to demand a certain level of fitness from their employees before subscribing to medical insurance plans for them. Insurance companies are also said to welcome the spread of the high-tech equipment because it provides cheat-proof evidence of a claimant's progress in accident cases that require rehabilitation therapy.

Universal's McGinley enthusiastically points to another advantage: This type of equipment can spawn a whole new category of competitive sports. Think about it. No more slugging through the mud, pedalling in the rain or risking heat stroke. All forms of sport can now be done in the comfort and warmth of the gym. "You can now have electronic triathlons, with sequences on the bicycles, the rowing machine and the treadmills," McGinley enthuses. The machines record individual performances, measure them against each other and come up with a winner. Who knows, one day there may not be a need for stadiums or for flying big-name athletes around the world. They will be able to compete mano a mano — on computers.

There are currently 50 or 60 systems in operation worldwide. They are popular with Japanese sports facility owners because they can condense all the equipment of a conventional gym into a small space. Another advantage of the new system is safety. The traditional weights and pulleys sometimes led to pulled

muscles, crushed fingers and other injuries.

But the computerised fitness systems are not likely to become standard equipment everywhere soon. "Equipment like this is really the product of an affluent, Western society," notes Kim Wood, a professional trainer who coaches the American professional football team, the Cincinnati Bengals. "People from different cultures would probably look at this as very decadent," he adds, "because here in the U.S. and in other Western nations, the physical side of man is left out of modern existence. Physical work, as other cultures know it, where people chop wood, dig in the fields and walk to work is obsolete in our culture." The result is a growing number of "couch potatoes" — people who sit in offices all day and in front of a TV set at night, he says.

Nevertheless, there is a growing awareness of the need for physical exercise and, says Wood, most of us don't need sophisticated equipment to keep in shape. "All the basic principles are known, there are many things you can do on your own without any equipment: Your body is all you need. There is a lot to be said for push-ups and a brisk walk," he adds. Wood acknowledges that in the past decade, the fitness craze has spawned a tremendous increase in medical research into the benefits of exercise.

Dr. Wesley Tzall, director of Cardiology at the Beekman Hospital in New York City agrees. "The scientific approach to exercise is very useful in many respects. Now we are better able to evaluate the risks of physical inactivity to people of all ages," he adds. Doctors have associated inactivity to coronary artery disease, hypertension, non insulin-dependent diabetes and osteoporosis. The leading cause of death

in the U.S. is coronary artery disease, diabetes affects some 6 million Americans and osteoporosis is responsible for 1.3 million hip fractures a year and more than \$7 billion in direct and indirect costs, according to a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association. "Physically inactive persons have a 32 per cent to 52 per cent greater risk of developing hypertension than those who exercise," it says. While the problem is more acute in the industrialised countries, health experts are concerned that such diseases are on the rise everywhere.

Dr. Bernard Guthin, Professor of Applied Physiology at Columbia University in New York, is currently re-searching the effectiveness of exercise in preventing osteoporosis, a disease that affects mainly older women and is characterised by calcium loss in the bones, making them brittle and subject to fracture. "This is a relatively new field of investigation but the evidence seems to be that regular, fairly strenuous physical activity enhances bone density and therefore bone strength. We are fairly certain that three weekly 15-minute sessions can have a very substantial beneficial effect when the exercise is very specific," he says.

Yet Guthin is quick to caution people who have not engaged in physical exercise for a long time against suddenly rushing to the race track or the gym. "People who are very deconditioned must get medical supervision before they start any form of strenuous exercise. They have to build up slowly; over



A fitness trainer programmes the computer specifically for each individual client's exercise regimen.

time, they can reach very high levels of activity," he adds.

The key to good health through exercise is motivation, but more often than not, this is what is lacking. Many people find that they simply lack the will and self-discipline to work out regularly. And this is where the personal trainer comes in.

Says David Kirsch, who runs a private training company and supervises 15 trainers who work with some 40 clients: "The craze for personal trainers started in the mid 1980s; it was a very yuppie thing: You had your BMW, your car phone, and your personal trainer."

There is more to it than a passing fad. A good, qualified trainer can make an enormous difference to those who do not have the will-power or knowledge to do it alone. Almost every gym or health club in the U.S. now offers one-to-one training as

a service. "I have been going to the gym since 1970," says 44-year-old magazine editor Michael Monte, "and before I took a personal trainer, I would feel exhausted after my work-out. Now I feel revitalised and full of energy." Monte has been working out with a trainer three times a week for the past 18 months.

"The primary advantage of having a trainer is that I'm committed to showing up and the second thing is that he has corrected me. In the first 8 months, I saw an improvement in my body." The \$40 per hour he pays for the private attention is worth every penny, he says. "I'm motivated, I'm doing the exercises correctly and it shows."

Although there are thousands who claim to be competent as personal trainers, there is little to regulate the profession and it seems almost anybody with big mus-

cles can set themselves up as a trainer. Cautions Motta of Plus One Fitness Clinics: "There is a need for more control. There are few schools and few professional certification exams." He recruits trainers exclusively from the American College of Sports Medicine or the National Strength and Conditioning Association, both of which guarantee that trainers have sufficient knowledge of anatomy and physiology to avoid accidents and injury.

Personal trainers and sophisticated machines aside, there are many simple things you can do to keep fit and feel healthy. Concludes professional football trainer Wood: "Walk up the stairs instead of taking the elevator. Walk to work instead of taking the bus, or take a brisk turn in the park at lunch time instead of sitting in the coffee shop. Every little thing you do is better than nothing — World News Link.

Scientists uncover new weapon in battle against breast cancer

By Wilson Da Silva Reuter

SYDNEY — A potential key to the prevention of breast cancer has been uncovered by Australian medical researchers working with a synthetic derivative of Vitamin A.

The scientists, of Sydney's Garvan Institute of Medical Research, said Wednesday a derivative of the vitamin hampers breast cancer cells from responding to steroid hormones known to be involved with the disease's propagation.

By doing this, they appear to prevent development of

the cancer.

"We know that Vitamin A derivatives stop the development of cancer in rats and we now have laboratory information that gives us an insight into how this works," said Dr. Rob Sutherland, leader of the 18-person research team.

The discovery was first made by the institute three years ago but published only last year in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, a United States scientific publication.

It followed studies aimed at finding an alternative for patients for whom current

anti-hormone treatment does not work. In the scientific paper, Sutherland said the treatment appears to show results within 46 hours of being applied.

Some 70 per cent of breast cancer surgery patients retain tumor cells in other parts of their body, Sutherland said. If treated with the Vitamin A derivative "they may be less likely to have a recurrence of the disease," he said.

The advance is applicable only to breast cancer, since cells of the disease are different from those of other cancers.

The institute will work with

an unnamed drug company in an international clinical trial to determine the effectiveness on breast cancer of the derivatives. Sutherland said results could be several years away.

Australian women have a one in 15 chance of developing breast cancer and 2,000 die every. This compares with about one in 12 in the United States and similar rates in other developed nations.

Statistics show that almost one in two women with a close family history of breast cancer develops the disease.

Weekend Crossword

ENCORES

By Henry Salzhander

ACROSS
1 Ancient
6 Peculiar
9 Certain worker for short
13 Tied the boards
18 Gain knowledge
19 Malignant fever
20 — about
21 Brown color
22 Degrade
23 Michael J. Fox
24 June 1917
25 Wire service
26 One in a million
27 Fragment of song
28 Paraphrase
29 Paraphrase
30 Lure
31 Aids a proposition
32 Paraphrase
33 Rude grasslands
34 Oodles

DOWN
1 Record sets
2 Kettle
3 Wit
4 Rite
5 Fined the lute
6 One in a million
7 Owning
8 Alphabet run
9 Clean problems
10 Habitué
11 Iced
12 Solace
13 Tries to the plate
14 Perform successfully
15 Hawthorne work
16 Fresh
17 Sun
18 Book of maps
19 TV's Mervyn
20 Accord
21 1919 for Cato

Diagramless

19 X 21, By James Barrick

ACROSS
1 Soggy
2 Compass point
3 Lie a bump on
4 Have
5 Kind of pain
6 Naught
7 Subject
14 Food and drink
17 Office worker for short
18 Opulent residence

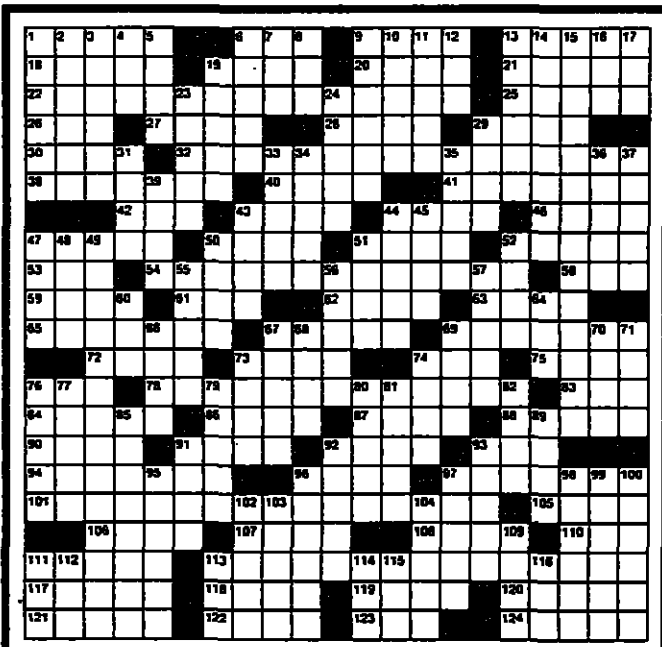
DOWN
1 Deaf
2 Post T.S.
3 Surprised
4 Overwhelm as with work
5 Make believe
6 Filled
13 Supporting pillar
15 In the air
16 Tail

41 N. nose dash
42 Heels
43 Madcap
44 Grand
45 Shape
46 Ance
47 Dismissal
48 Fish sauce
49 — in Her Ear
50 Lure
51 Powder-Cosby
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73 The thing here
74 — de Cologne
75 Trudge
76 Debut
77 John Gielgud
78 Work unit
79 Dismissal
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81 Shield border
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21 Remove
22 Mechanical men
23 Lusterless
24 Mole
25 Eminent conductor
26 Soldier on the run
27 Strife
28 Part of RCMP
29 —
30 A letter
31 Attractive one
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36 One of the planets
37 Garlic bulb
38 Far
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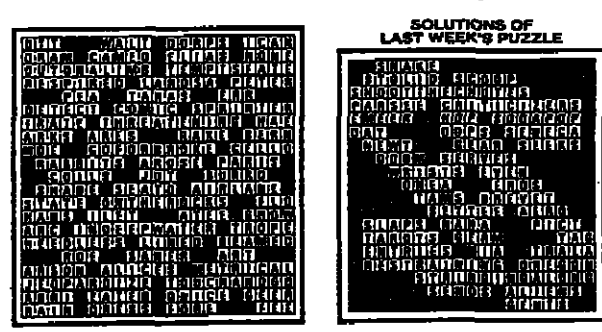


Last Week's Cryptograms

- Spring training camp opens with batting champ hitting homer into lower bleachers.
- Deadly excess in stock market caused sexagenarian Wall Street wizard's income taxes to rise.
- Fisherman makes good harpoon shot on gigantic whale while perched on aft poop deck.
- A smile is such a lively curve, it sets many things straight.

CRYPTOGRAMS

- CIOT PCO EOTY. RWTK AD JUKDDX
EDDHJUP, ECOTY ICKITERT YCKAATW
"WATCH-DRAW."
—By Lois H. Jones
- MYMIC QUC WZM NBIPQ WHIRL BYMI BR
LBAM EBBI, DPHA SMPPBN NZB NUL
LOWWORD BR WEE BS OW.
—By E.L. Livingston
- RCI OVZIPA VM AOKMR FVZIPS
EWKESQPG BQZBIRPG FQJI RCI FQJESB
VM FKSEIFQR VWR VM QSORCKSB Q XVAR
QPR.
—By Gordon Miller
- CME DIRTMOVES HAPPYDURT DEUVSVM
NDATWR CMG HR MTRWORY HC IDPVNR.
—By Ed Huddleston



Faint electrical signals may forecast susceptibility to sudden death

By Paul Recer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — researchers exploring the storm of electrical currents that course through the heart say they have found a pattern that predicts sudden cardiac death.

Richard Verrier, a professor at Georgetown University Medical Center said that in laboratory experiments on dogs his team was able to isolate and identify a faint electrical pulse in the heart that preceded ventricular fibrillation, a disturbed cardiac rhythm that kills within minutes.

"It's like a signal that tells when a bridge is about to break up," Verrier said in recent interview.

"We saw that whenever the heart is prone to ventricular fibrillation and sudden death there is always an alternation in the T-wave (a specific electrical pulse in the

heart)," he said. "It alternates and then the beat goes into a chaotic state."

A report on the research was published in the journal Science.

Verrier said his group discovered the unique cardiac signal by passing electrical sensors into the left ventricle chamber of the hearts in 16 anesthetized dogs and then making a computer analysis of the electrical pulses in the heart.

Invariably, he said, the hearts produced a distinctive pattern change in the T-waves just before the fatal attack started.

"One beat is large and one beat is small" in the alternation pattern, Verrier said. "In the normal heart, the T-waves are all even. You could superimpose normal T-waves one on top of the other and they would be almost identical."

A normal heart beat is established by a regular pat-

tern of faint electrical signals in the heart's nerve system. Those signals direct the work of heart muscles that contract and relax during the cycle of pumping blood.

During ventricular fibrillation, the rhythm is disrupted and the muscles go into irregular spasms that prevent the pumping of blood. Death follows quickly.

Verrier said the next step was to convert his discovery into a system that could be applied to routine medical exams.

His team, he said, is developing a computer analysis system that would enable the abnormal T-wave signal to be detected in electrocardiograms given in doctor's offices. Eventually, he believes computer software will be developed to enable doctors to screen patients for susceptibility to sudden cardiac death.

Such a technique may take several years to develop, but

could save millions of lives, he said.

"Ninety per cent of the people who die suddenly — and that's about 400,000 in the U.S. annually — have ventricular fibrillation," Verrier said, adding that about 25 per cent of those deaths occur among people who had no previous diagnosis of heart problems.

If people susceptible to sudden death could be found through routine medical exams, the condition possible could be treated with drugs that would head off a later fatal attack, he said.

Verrier said sudden cardiac death from ventricular fibrillation may not be associated directly with injury to the heart muscle or to the clogged arteries that mark chronic heart disease. Instead, sudden death often is the result of disrupted electrical pulses in the nerves that direct the beat of the heart.

Minister warns of contamination

(Continued from page 1)
duction of field crops and vegetables which are eaten cooked and the production of animal feed.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Al Zaben said that treated water could provide a very good source for irrigation, but public health safety measures have to be strictly adhered to in the process of treating water to ensure safe production.

Mr. Serour said that Jordan was in need of at least 730 million cubic metres of water every year for agricultural, industrial and domestic use, of which 175 million is used for drinking, 35 million for industry and 520 million for agricultural purposes.

"Jordan's water needs are growing every year and it is estimated that the country will need nearly 1,120 million cubic metres of water by the year 2005 in view of the growing population, improvement in the standard of living and the increasing water consumption at all levels," the minister said.

"Jordan's water resources are very limited, but the government is doing all it can through the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, which has adopted a strategy to face the future needs," the minister added.

He said the strategy entailed continued search for new surface and underground re-

sources, continued improvement of the management of available water resources, more economic exploitation of water, and improving the quality of treated water to be used for irrigation purposes.

At the same time, the ministry has adopted the so-called "water harvest" project, which aims at using to the full the rain water collected behind dams, according to the minister.

"The ministry this year allocated sufficient funds for the purchase of equipment to be used in the construction of dams to collect rain water," he added.

Referring to the coming summer, the minister said the ministry had set a distribution programme which will be announced soon.

Mr. Serour urged citizens to install sufficient tanks at home to save as much water as possible and to report to the Water Authority about emergencies related to water; he stressed the need to ration the water consumption.

Referring to the southern regions, which were affected by a rainstorm last month, the minister said that there would be some delay in the implementation of irrigation projects in the southern Jordan Valley region due to the difficulty in reaching some areas.

He said that work, which entails laying 47 kilometres of networks and cement canals, will eventually be carried out.

Requisites for Mideast Stability

By Peter Gubser

For the Middle East to attain healthy, dynamic, and progressive stability, it is necessary for the region, and its friends, to address three sets of major issues. The Israeli-Palestinian (and Arab) conflict must be equitably resolved and put behind us. Mechanisms and policies must be put in place to deal with the dramatic imbalance in the distribution of wealth based on natural resources, and the socio-political tensions this condition engenders. In order for the people of region to enjoy broad access to their economic and political systems, these systems require fundamental reforms, leading to more openness, pluralism, and accountability. And it is obvious to serious observers of the Middle East that essential steps with respect to economic and political development cannot and will not be taken until substantive progress is made on the first two sets of issues.

First, a solution to the Palestinian/Arab-Israeli conflict must be found. All parties, the Palestinians, the Arabs, the Israelis, and the Americans must seriously focus on disposing of this issue so that our individual and collective energies may be applied to other matters. The inequity of the current situation especially for the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and in the diaspora as well as the crucial need to address Israel's security concerns demonstrates the urgency of resolving the conflict. The United States' long time adherence to the principles inherent in U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, namely the exchange of land for peace, are certainly the substance of how the desired peace should be attained.

That it is essential to resolve the problem for other reasons is also evident. This long standing conflict is a major detriment, retardant to economic investment, and thus development, in the region. Why would a rational investor — whether a multinational corporation or a fund from one of the wealthy oil-producing states — put money into the area? More specifically, if one has the choice — and one does — of building a computer factory hiring 500 workers in Nablus,

Amman, Baghdad or Damascus versus Taiwan, Malaysia or Mexico, where does one choose? Given the inherent instability and recurrent wars, inspired, if not dictated by the Palestinian/Arab-Israeli conflict, it is almost unimaginable that the investor would choose one of the great Arab cities. In addition, this conflict gives one more excuse for repressive regimes to maintain their control and not encourage or allow movement towards democracy as now occurs in only a very few Middle Eastern countries, and then only to varying degrees of success.

The skewed distribution of wealth based on the extraction of natural resources was a contributing cause of the recent Gulf War and certainly a strong, resonant theme at the popular level. While this issue may not be resolvable in the same sense as the above problem, it can certainly be managed in a much more efficacious manner than heretofore. One approach was recommended at a

conference called by Crown Prince Hassan and convened in Amman in early January 1991. The participants, consisting of state, officials of multilateral agencies, and nongovernmental organisations, "called for the establishment of a long-term fund that would foster regional and economic and social stability." The United States should actively work for the creation of, and then tangibly participate in such a fund. Proportionately, the U.S. is giving more aid to the Middle East (largely to Israel and Egypt) than any other region in the world. It is in the American interest to divert a portion of this aid to such a multinational fund for Middle East development, a facility which would acquire most of its capital from oil-rich countries. American and other Western participation is necessary so that the new institution will be run on sound development principles and not be focused on short-term political ends. And to have a role in its governance, it is im-

perative for a country to contribute to its capitalisation. Via mechanisms such as this proposed fund, the perception and substance of the inequitable distribution of wealth will be improved which, in turn, will positively influence political development. As the Palestinian Arab/Israeli conflict and the wealth distribution issues are being addressed, constraints on the process of economic and political development will be eased. While there are many nuances in this set of intra and inter state issues, the essential one is to make these overlapping systems much more open, increase access, and promote pluralism in the economy and socio-political organisations, whether at the local or central levels of the society. Accessible and freer market systems will be more prevalent and the trappings and staff of democracy will become more available to the people.

This whole process was well stated in a recent white paper

which this writer helped formulate. Issued by the Coalition for Post-War U.S. Policy in the Middle East, it is titled "Enhancing Economic and Political Development" in its series Towards a New Middle East: Peace and Post-War U.S. Policy.

"The result of greater economic development within states is that citizens will perceive, many for the first time, that they have a stake in their economy and in their country's future. This awakening of individual economic initiative will increase the demand for greater political participation. This movement for greater political and economic access will, over time, enhance internal political stability as citizens support legal, governmental, and private institutions and policies which contribute to their economic well-being

Peter Gubser, author of books and articles on the Middle East, is president of American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA). He contributed this article to the Jordan Times while he was on a brief visit to Amman.

Baker heads for Soviet talks

(Continued from page 1)

at all." Mr. Baker showed no sign of giving in. In fact, he hinted that he might return to the Middle East soon.

"We are working through these issues in a constructive way," he said.

Mr. Baker's third Middle East mission in six weeks end up with talks Friday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"I do see evidence of a new approach and a new willingness in the aftermath of the Gulf conflict to address these intractable issues in a serious and determined fashion," said Mr. Baker. "I really do see that. Let me say if I didn't see that I don't think I

would be out here."

Mr. Baker acknowledged he has failed to bridge the gap between Arabs and Israelis on terms for a peace conference.

Asked point blank at a news conference whether he would say all Arab and Israeli leaders were prepared to hold peace talks as a result of his discussions with them, Mr. Baker replied: "I can't say that yet. I certainly hope so." Later he said a peace conference "might be held" and reiterated that "we agreed to continue these discussions."

Pressed for specifics, Mr. Baker said: "You know I'm not going to conduct these negotiations through the press. We want them to succeed."

U.N. force sets up base

(Continued from page 1)

assured me that they want to have this be a successful mission."

Gen. Greindl predicted it would take two weeks for the entire 1,440-member contingent from more than 30 countries to be fully deployed.

A group of hundreds from the South Lebanon U.N. contingents from Ghana, Nepal and Fiji transited Israel and were in Amman Wednesday en route to Kuwait (see page 3).

U.S. troops will be allowed to stay in southern Iraq until the full U.N. contingent is deployed, Gen. Greindl said. Then all American and Iraqi forces must vacate the demilitarised zone.

U.N. sources said Kuwaiti officials had refused permission to

move refugees inside their territory.

Gen. Greindl said he had not discussed the refugees with the Iraqi authorities or anyone else. "It is not my responsibility."

U.N. officials drove to Safwan through desert and scrubland littered with evidence of the Gulf war. Smashed tanks, armoured personnel carriers, buses, trucks and cars littered the highway north from Kuwait City.

Smoke from scores of oilwells set ablaze in the war at Rawdawn oilfield — so far untouched by firefighters — cast a huge pall over northern Kuwait.

An Iraqi colonel and Republican Guard escorts visited the command post during the hand-over ceremony.

Iraqis, allies boost forces

(Continued from page 1)

seen around 300 uniformed Iraqis, many carrying assault rifles, patrolling the streets.

The stand-off in Zakho is threatening allied plans to bring home up to 850,000 mainly Kurdish refugees who fled to the Turkish border to escape a failed Kurdish rebellion.

Kurdish refugees in Silopi, a Turkish border town 16 kilometres west of Zakho, said they would not go to American-guarded havens while Iraqi forces roamed northern towns.

"We won't leave until there is real security in Zakho, until there is agreement between our (Kurdish) leaders and the Iraqi government under a United Nations framework," Zakho lawyer

Mohammad Shakoor told Reuters.

A convoy of 25 U.S. armoured personnel carriers, jeeps and trucks rolled across the Habur border bridge towards Zakho, followed by a 10-vehicle convoy of French paratroopers.

One hundred Dutch marines deployed at a now-abandoned Iraqi customs post at the Habur bridge.

A further 300 Dutch marines were due to move into northern Iraq over the next few days.

The United States said Tuesday it is moving ships to positions off Turkey to make it clear that Baghdad had better not interfere with the allied presence.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said the United States was prepared to use force if necessary.

PLO insists on U.N. role

(Continued from page 1)

Palestine (DPLF) advocated rejecting the regional peace conference concept which is supported by Israel.

Nabil Shaath, special adviser to Mr. Arafat, said he favoured flexibility towards the U.S. moves, as suggested by Mr. Arafat.

Palestinian sources said the council decided that a proposal to form a provisional Palestinian government was premature.

The idea was put forward by

Khaled Al Hassan, a leader of the mainstream PLO group Fatah, who suggested it be composed of technocrats from the Israeli-occupied territories and Palestinian exiles, who would join a joint delegation with Jordan at a peace conference.

Council sources said a majority of members favoured a Palestinian state first of all, to be followed eventually by confederation with Jordan.

Khaled Al Hassan said that in any case such a joint delegation would not impair Palestinian independence.

Journalists fighting for free expression

By Bryan Brunley
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — From the state-owned airwaves to fledgling newspapers, Soviet journalists are fighting to preserve the freedom to say what they want.

Six years after Mikhail S. Gorbachev launched glasnost, the most serious attack on the media came this winter from Gorbachev himself, after he was harshly criticised for the military crackdown in the Baltics. He suspended last year's law guaranteeing freedom of the press.

But journalists countered by starting new newspapers, television and radio networks, most of them under the protection of reformist legislatures in the Russian federation and the cities of Moscow and Leningrad.

Gorbachev may balk at economic and political reform but "glasnost has taken hold," said

Oleg M. Poptsov, chairman of the all-Russian committee for radio and television. The broadcast organisation was founded last year as part of Russian leader Boris Yeltsin's challenge to central authority.

Gorbachev is not the only official who has been accused of trying to muzzle the media. Zviad Gamsakhurdia, president of the secessionist Republic of Georgia, has shut down the outspoken newspaper Young Georgian, said its editor, Gia Patsuria.

Norwegian press associations have asked Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis to explain his firing of Rolands Barysas as head of the Baltic republic's news agency. Barysas was considered an ally of former Prime Minister Kazimieras Kruskas, a Landsbergis rival who was forced to resign in January.

The main attack on the press, however, has been waged by

Leonid Kravchenko, a Gorbachev lieutenant who took over the Soviet state broadcast committee last fall.

"When he was appointed at the end of last year, Kravchenko made it clear that there was going to be only one way of thinking — his way," said the Russian gazette, a newspaper working under Yeltsin's protection.

Kravchenko told The Associated Press in a recent interview that no pluralism could be tolerated in the state-owned media. "Don't you know there is a political struggle going on?" he said.

He tried to shut down the independent Interfax News Agency, which was operating from the premises of Radio Moscow, a state broadcast affiliate. Interfax now operates out of Yeltsin's offices.

Kravchenko did rein in the most radical prime-time program-

me on national television, "viewpoint," which was known for tough reformist commentaries, investigative journalism and a fast-paced format aimed at younger audiences. Many viewpoint employees moved to the Russian television operation.

Russian television has managed to air only a few hours of experimental programming, using space rented from central state television. And Russian Radio so far is limited to a few hours a day.

Poptsov plans to expand Russian broadcasts next month. Until then, most viewers must rely on central television's main evening newscast, "time," which reformers complain has been pushed back to its pre-glasnost approach of sticking close to the Kremlin line.

Kravchenko prompted criticism from the press recently when he banned live appearances by

three popular broadcasters on the late-night news programme "TSN."

"Glasnost is being strangled," said an editorial in the independent newspaper, a bold new publication with a circulation limited to 150,000 by the capacity of its printing plant.

Equally critical was Komsomolskaya Pravda, which is nominally the organ of the Young Communists' league. It has taken a radical line and seen its daily circulation rise past 16 million, the third largest in the country.

The most widely read Soviet newspaper is Arguments and Facts, which has attracted nearly 23 million subscribers with a no-nonsense format: short reports, columns of statistics and no sacred cows.

By contrast, subscriptions have fallen 70 per cent for Pravda, the Communist Party daily that has

"Concurrently, regional political security will create conditions favourable to greater regional economic cooperation and development. Growing regional stability, normal relations among states in the region, and the reallocation of national resources to reflect decreased external security concerns, will diminish the concerns of national governments with shoring up their legitimacy and monitoring internal security. Governments will then have greater confidence to enact and support increased internal political reform."

While the burden of the reform process is inherently in the hands of the peoples and regimes in the Middle East, the U.S. too has a role. By focusing aid programmes on the private and independent sector and institution building, by promoting open economic systems through trade incentives, by eschewing aid to regimes that limit economic and political access, by entering into policy dialogues on these issues, and by tolerating regimes and peoples who freely express views opposed to ours, we can assist the Middle Eastern countries in their reform efforts.

Out of this Gulf War, if all the parties make the effort, a new more positive, more progressive Middle East is possible. However, none of us can shirk our obligations. We all must take responsibility for our own actions or inaction. Certainly the Middle East states and peoples must take new and bold initiatives, for it is the conflicts in their societies that must be resolved, it is their societies that cry for reform. But we Americans also have obligations. In each of the three sets of issues we have interests, responsibilities, and assets. For over a century and a half we have been involved in the region, first through educational institutions such as the American University of Beirut and now through active military intervention. For better or for worse, we are engaged. We should use our considerable influence to affect positively these sets of issues which are salient both to the peoples of the Middle East and to America.

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Banks unwilling to forgive debts of Poland, others

WASHINGTON (AP) — Banks have told the world's financial leaders they do not want to forgive part of Poland's debt, nor the debt of other "middle income" countries that owe them hundreds of billions of dollars.

That message, disclosed Tuesday, was in a letter sent Thursday by Horst Schulmann, managing director of the Institute of International Finance, which has major banks as members around the world.

He sent it to cabinet ministers of Group of Seven countries coming to Washington this week for a semi-annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Poland owes most of its debt to Germany, France, the United States and other governments which agreed last month to forgive at least half of it. Poland owes commercial banks about \$10 billion principal and \$1.18 billion in interest.

"Aid is a prerogative of governments," Schulmann wrote. "Banks are not in the foreign aid business. ... They cannot be expected, therefore, to match the terms of official creditors, especially where aid is clearly a component of official debt relief."

At a news conference, Schulmann called official debt relief a backdoor form of aid. He said giving aid in this way led to calls for banks to do the same.

Schulmann distributed a table showing that 15 heavily indebted countries have piled up more

than \$11 billion in back interest owed to banks since 1989. In March, the total stood at \$26.827 billion.

Brazil, the biggest debtor, had the most arrears — \$9.5 billion. Brazil has agreed to make payments on arrears through last year. But it is still piling up unpaid interest this year and has not made any agreement on what it will do about that.

Schulmann proposed that intergovernmental bodies like the fund and the World Bank refuse to make new loans to countries that have not made agreements on back interest.

He said he saw trouble ahead because of a shortage of capital in the world, due to low savings and new needs for loans by rich countries as well as the middle income group.

Increased deficits in the high-income countries mean they, too, will be seeking more loans. The seven are the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada.

"Five of the Group of Seven governments that will meet here Sunday are increasing their deficits," Schulmann said. He did not name the five.

Countries, from Bolivia, where the average annual income was about \$570 in 1988, to Libya, where the average was \$5,420, are considered to be middle income. They include most countries in Latin America and those formerly under communist rule.

Algeria abolishes import licences in step towards market economy

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria announced the abolition of import licences Tuesday in another step towards a free market economy to match political pluralism.

The abolition opens up foreign trade to anyone or any company with access to foreign exchange. It marks a sharp break with practices in force since Algerian turned socialist on independence from France in 1962.

Under the previous system the central government set strict import budgets for public companies and private businessmen needed a licence from the semi-official chamber of commerce.

Algeria has been moving to

wards a free market economy for the past two years. Government officials plan to make the oil-backed Algerian dinar convertible by the end of the year.

The government has given individuals access to foreign currency at the official rate, devalued the dinar to reduce the gap between the official and black-market rates, and is encouraging previously banned joint ventures with foreigners.

An official notice carried Tuesday by the official news agency AFS said, "any person or company on the commercial register may, without previous agreement or authorisation, make imports exclusively through a (commercial) bank."

The only goods specifically excluded from the liberalisation are gold and precious stones.

Under the new arrangements, traders need only submit their import orders and a proforma invoice to their banks, which may require them to make a deposit in local currency.

Companies with accounts in hard currencies, such as many wholesalers, local agents of foreign companies and companies which specialise in exports, can pay for their imports by straight-forward bank transfers.

Companies without instant access to hard currency will depend on their banks to arrange it.

The notice does not set any limits on the amounts, which

were previously closely watched by the central bank to ensure that Algeria's short-term debt did not mount up.

The liberalisation appeared to be the government's answer to complaints from private businessmen that the government, in allocating foreign exchange, still discriminated against them in favour of public companies and recently approved trading companies, many of which are subsidiaries of foreign firms.

At least for imports of foodstuffs, durable goods, raw materials and machinery, government lines of credit are expected to continue to play a major role in Algeria's foreign trade.

ILO compares earning power around the world

GENEVA (AP) — Bakers in Burundi and Burma have to toil by their ovens for more than an hour to buy loaf of bread, while Dutch hotel receptionists and Italian plumbers earn enough in the same time for ten loaves, according to a survey by the International Labour Organisation.

A summary of results published Tuesday showed bakers in Yugoslavia have to put in five hours work for one kilogramme of beef or fish. But one hour's work for their counterparts in Denmark would pay for two kilogrammes of beef and in Cuba for two kilogrammes on fish.

The survey compared data on earnings and hours of work for 159 occupations with retail prices on 93 food items. It revealed wide differences among the 100 countries questioned.

It said sweet-toothed workers in Gibraltar, Iceland and Sweden could buy more than five bars of chocolate with an hour's wages. Wages for Austrian computer programmers in insurance companies stretched to 27 bars an

hour. Bus conductors in Bahrain earned enough in one hour for six kilogrammes of sugar. By contrast construction workers in Bangladesh and Burma had to work for more than two hours for one kilogramme.

Waiters in Bolivia and Sri Lanka had to serve for at least an hour to buy a beer. Their colleagues in the Netherlands and Austria could buy ten during the same time.

The survey showed highest earnings for certain occupations were up to four times as high as the lowest. For example, in Bolivia, a nurse earned more than three times as much as a grain miller and in Bangladesh a hotel receptionist took home three times as much as a spinner.

The survey was based on data for 1989 supplied to the Geneva-based labour organisation. The figures are based on gross wages and do not take into account differences in national methods of data collection.

Thailand, South Korea and Taiwan expected to have top growth rates

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — Thailand, South Korea and Taiwan are expected to register the Third World's highest economic growth rates during the next five years, according to a survey published Tuesday.

Ivory Coast and Argentina figure at the lower end of the survey, which covers 36 Asian, African and Latin American countries and is based on constant 1985 U.S. dollar exchange rates.

The Basel-based Prognos Centre said in the survey that the average growth rate of the 36 countries will be an annual four per cent until 1995, compared with a worldwide average of about three per cent. But it said that the North-South gap will continue to widen because of an above-average population growth of 2.2 per cent per year.

Export growth, averaging 5.9 per cent during the six years until 1989, will increase to an annual 10.1 per cent until 1995, the survey said. The forecast envisioned Taiwan and South Korea will be the leading exporters, followed by Singapore, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

The survey also predicted that the 36 countries will sell \$500 billion worth of manufactured goods on the world market in

1995 with eight South East Asian nations having an 80 per cent share of the total.

Other points in the survey include:

Measured by head of population, Singapore will continue to have the highest gross domestic product (GDP) among the 36 countries. The value, \$11,728 in 1995, is close to double the 1980 figure.

Hong Kong, \$9,545, Saudi Arabia, \$6,943, Taiwan, \$5,661 and South Korea, \$4,245 follow in this order. By comparison, Zaire's per capita GDP was forecast to be \$90 in 1995 and India's \$353.

Predicted annual per capita GDP growth rates for the 1989-1995 period included 6.8 per cent for Thailand, 6.0 for Taiwan and South Korea, and 5.8 for Singapore and Malaysia.

In Latin America, Chile, 4.0, Colombia, 3.9 and Brazil, 3.6 per cent headed the list and in Africa, the leading growth rates were expected to be registered by Kenya, 3.6, Tunisia, 3.5, and Morocco, 3.4 per cent.

For Argentina, the rate would be a mere 2.2 per cent and for Ivory Coast 1.6 per cent.

Taiwan was forecast to have a \$10 billion balance of payments surplus in 1995 while India would have piled a \$12 billion deficit.

Gulf Arab bankers pledge to restore trust in region's banks

RIYADH (R) — Heads of Gulf Arab central banks and monetary agencies have pledged to work together to restore confidence in their banking system following the Gulf crisis.

The Gulf News Agency said Wednesday their one-day meeting in Riyadh Tuesday concentrated on increasing financial ties between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

The shock of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August prompted an outflow of capital from Gulf banks and caused delays in major development projects.

The bankers met in the Saudi capital in tandem with finance ministers from the six GCC states — Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

"Several decisions and resolutions have been taken to ease and expand economic cooperation between the council states," the

agency quoted Qatar's Monetary Agency Governor Abdullah Bin Khalid Al Attiya as saying.

Attia, who chaired the meeting, said regional banks should take a greater role in economic development and coordination of banking and monetary policies among GCC states.

He proposed a thorough review of Gulf banking policy and suggested a regional banking conference led by the GCC or any Gulf financial institution to study the effect of the Gulf crisis on banking strategy.

Kuwait's central bank governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah said Kuwait banks had lost records of debt and credit to customers and other banks after the invasion.

He said the Kuwaiti government was working to reactivate the banking system and restore contact with the global market.

Egypt parliament approves sensitive 10% sales tax

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's parliament approved Tuesday a sharp, politically-sensitive sales tax prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to cut a huge budget deficit.

Economists say the new 10 per cent tax will bite into middle-class incomes and is sure to infuriate the public, but is necessary for an IMF accord that would sharply reduce the country's \$35 billion foreign debt.

Egypt's MENA news agency quoted Planning Minister Kamal Ganzouri as telling parliament the state's deficit for the year ending June 30 would reach more than 11 billion pounds (\$3.3 billion).

Economists say the IMF has demanded the deficit be cut to under 10 per cent of gross domestic product from around 17 per cent now before agreeing to a standby credit accord.

Western creditors have pledged to reduce their part of Cairo's debt by as much as 50 per cent once an accord is signed.

The government has tried to protect those with lower incomes by exempting basic foodstuffs from the tax, due to come into force within three months.

"The IMF has not forced Egypt to choose the sales tax system. The government did not come to parliament to present terms imposed on it in a crisis," Ganzouri said while defending the tax to parliament.

"If we had acted according to the IMF years ago, we would



Kamal Ganzouri

have fired a million out of five million workers in the government and public sectors," he added.

Egypt, which has been negotiating with the IMF for more than three years, has also agreed to raise domestic energy prices next month and impose higher customs duties.

A senior Western economist said the IMF administration had approved Egypt's economic reform proposals and an accord was likely to be signed in mid-May.

Al Ahran newspaper said the new tax would earn the government as much as one billion pounds (\$300 million) during the first year.

The tax would be collected initially only from businesses with annual sales exceeding 16,000 pounds (\$11,000).

Israeli report warns of mass exodus from soaring unemployment

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's central bank warned the government Tuesday that soaring unemployment could drive away hundreds of thousands of people, especially new immigrants.

It said unemployment would reach 14 to 18 per cent in five years, prompting up to a fifth of the one million newcomers expected from the Soviet Union to move on. Thousands of jobless Israelis might go as well, it said.

The 60-page Bank of Israel report is the direst official forecast yet of the difficulty the Israeli economy faces in absorbing Soviet Jews.

The central bank and the finance ministry are pressing for a shakeup of labour laws, a lower minimum wage and cuts in benefits for the unemployed in an effort to spur economic growth. Labour unions are resisting the proposals.

Rafi Melnick, an author of the Bank of Israel report, told Reuters Tuesday that "for Israel to absorb one million people is like the United States absorbing the entire population of France."

"We have a programme and it can be done, but it must be done immediately," he stressed.

Last year, 185,000 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel. Another 200,000 are expected this year — but that figure is half of earlier estimates.

Housing is in short supply and some politicians believe thousands of Soviet Jews are delaying their move to Israel after learning of the hardships.

Unemployment stands just below 10 per cent, a 20-year record. It was about seven per cent before political changes in the Soviet Union unleashed a flood of immigrants last year.

Melnick helped devise a Bank of Israel and finance ministry plan last September to spur growth. He said the measures were stalled or blocked by un-

Shekel loses 2.7 per cent against dollar in seven days

TEL AVIV (R) — The Bank of Israel has devalued the shekel by 2.7 per cent against the U.S. dollar in the past week as the dollar gained strength against other currencies.

The shekel lost 0.61 per cent Tuesday to close at 2.2970 to the dollar. On April 16 the shekel was 2.2350 to the dollar.

The Israeli currency is tied to a dollar-dominated basket of currencies allowed to fluctuate by up to five per cent around a median rate of 2.522 shekels to one unit of basket.

But while the basket rate was devalued by 0.6 per cent in the last seven days due to domestic demand for foreign currency, the U.S. dollar's rally against major currencies was also reflected in its strength against the shekel.

On March 10, Israel lowered by 5.66 per cent the median value of its shekel against the currency basket, which resulted in a 6.25 per cent devaluation against the dollar. Since then, the shekel has lost 10.54 per cent against the dollar.

ions, parliament, and a lack of government resolve.

Economists say Israel must create 500,000 new jobs to absorb a million arrivals. The bulk must be in export industries because there is limited scope for expansion in the local market.

Some 60 per cent of Soviet newcomers are university educated. Melnick said high-technology firms could especially benefit from their skills.

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Correction

IN Wednesday's issue of the Jordan Times, it was erroneously mentioned that Jordan needs about JD 1 million in investments a year to counterbalance the increase in labour force. The correct figure should have read JD 1 billion.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, April 24, 1991 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	682.0	687.0	
Pound Sterling	1162.0	1169.0	
Deutschemark	388.6	390.9	
Swiss franc	466.1	468.9	
French franc	115.3	116.0	
Japanese yen (for 100)	492.2	495.2	
Dutch guilder	345.0	347.1	
Swedish crown	109.5	110.2	
Italian lira (for 100)	52.7	53.0	
Belgian franc (for 10)	189.8	190.9	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7180/40	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1533/38	Canadian dollar	
	1.7320/30	Deutschemark	
	1.9525/35	Dutch guilders	
	1.4525/32	Swiss francs	
	35.73/77	Belgian francs	
	5.8450/8500	French francs	
	1279/1280	Italian lire	
	137.40/50	Japanese yen	
	6.1900/50	Swedish crowns	
	6.7300/50	Norwegian crowns	
	6.6200/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	355.80/356.30	U.S. dollars	

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Cambodia accepts truce proposal

BANGKOK (AP) — Cambodia's Vietnamese-installed government Wednesday agreed to a truce that would smooth the way for talks aimed at ending the country's 12-year-old civil war.

A day earlier, the forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk — leader of the three-party guerrilla coalition — accepted the joint appeal by the French and Indonesian foreign ministers and U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai also endorsed it.

A truce would significantly encourage the peace process, the Cambodian government said in a statement carried by the Cambodian News Agency (SPK), monitored in Bangkok.

The joint appeals, issued Monday, said the ceasefire should begin on May 1 and continue at least until the end of peace talks planned for Jakarta, Indonesia. It said this would create a favourable climate for the talks.

No date has been set, but Indonesia has said it hoped the talks would be held in May. Indonesia, France and the United

Nations are the main coordinators of the International Conference on Cambodia, the main forum for a peace agreement.

The Jakarta talks would involve the Supreme National Council, a body of 12 government and guerrilla representatives who, under a U.N. Security Council peace plan, would help guide the country in the period before elections.

The Phnom Penh statement said the meeting should discuss differences over the peace plan, and arrange a ceasefire and an end to all foreign military aid to the warring parties. The Soviet Union and Vietnam help the government, while China and Thailand are the main backers of the guerrillas.

The guerrillas say they fully accept the U.N. plan.

But Phnom Penh has rejected the plan's proposed dissolution of the four armies, and insists the Phnom Penh government remain intact before elections. It also says any agreement must include measures to prevent a return to power by the Khmer Rouge, the largest guerrilla group. The Khmer Rouge killed hundreds of

thousands of people during its fanatical Communist rule of Cambodia in the 1970s.

Khmer Rouge officials could not be reached for comment on the truce appeal.

The third guerrilla group after Sihanouk's group and the Khmer Rouge, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, said Tuesday it would wait for an official notification from France, Indonesia and the U.N. secretary general before announcing its position.

The upsurge in fighting during the dry season has driven 66,000 Cambodians from their homes this year, Western aid officials say, increasing the country's total number of refugees to more than 500,000.

Relief officials appealed for immediate international aid.

Dennis McNamara, the U.N. secretary general's deputy special representative for Cambodia, said Tuesday the initial response was not encouraging because of the attention given to the refugees in Iraq.

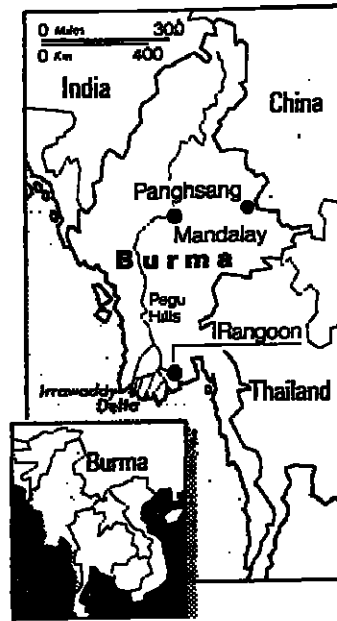
"We're coming with an appeal competing with television pictures of Kurds dying, but in fact

Cambodia needs are there, and growing," McNamara said. "I'm not sure how long we can wait on this. The Cambodians really need immediate relief."

The number of refugees in government-held areas in Cambodia jumped 30 per cent — from 140,000 to 186,000 — in the first three months of the year. People are now displaced in nine of the country's 19 provinces, Western aid agencies based in Phnom Penh said in a report to potential donor countries last week.

In addition, fighting, food shortages and the government draft have forced about 20,000 people to guerrilla-controlled refugee camps just inside Thailand this year, bringing their population to about 330,000. Thousands more reportedly have massed at the border, trying to enter camps aided by the United Nations.

"The war is moving inside Cambodia. It is no longer concentrated in the (Thai) border area," a U.N. aid official who demanded anonymity said Wednesday. "The villages have become unsettled. The people are either internally displaced or moving to the border camps."



Burma opposition replaces leader

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's opposition has given in to army pressure to replace dissident Aung San Suu Kyi as leader but will feel only symbolic loss as she has been under house arrest for nearly two years, diplomats said Wednesday.

In a separate development, the army government said it would reopen universities next month in Mandalay, the centre of underground opposition to military rule since all colleges were closed during an abortive pro-democracy uprising in 1988.

The official Working People's Daily said on Wednesday the National League for Democracy (NLD) had in late March dropped General Secretary Aung San Suu Kyi and Chairman Tin Oo from the central executive committee, which they had led since the party's founding in 1988.

Diplomats in Rangoon and Bangkok said the military, which has jailed at least 10 senior league figures in recent months, had put pressure on the remaining leaders to formally sever links with the two detained dissidents.

"It's something the SLORC (State Law and Order Restoration Council) have been pushing the NLD to do for some time," said one Rangoon-based diplomat. "Most people here saw it coming and regarded it as inevitable."

Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of assassinated independence hero Aung San and at the forefront of the 1988 uprising, enjoys almost mythical status across Burma despite not being seen in public since her house arrest in July, 1989.

She has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her non-violent campaign for democracy. Diplomats credited her powerful personality as the main reason for the NLD's landslide victory in army-held elections last year. The army, shocked by the result, abandoned promises to step down and demanded parties enter into a years-long process of drawing up a constitution.

"Aung San Suu Kyi casts a long shadow from her home, and everything the army has done has been geared to undermine her appeal and disconnecting her from the NLD. Without her the NLD would be very little," a Bangkok-based diplomat said.

Official media quoted the election commission as saying the NLD had replaced Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin Oo, an ex-general now serving a three year jail sentence for undermining the state, with acting Secretary U Lwin and acting Chairman Aung Shwe.

N. Korea said building third nuclear facility

SEOUL (AP) — North Korea is building a large nuclear reactor and a reprocessing plant which could be used to make nuclear weapons, a South Korean newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Seogye Times, quoting an unidentified source said to be well-informed on the North's nuclear development, said the new facility is being built near Yongbyon in northern North Korea and is to be completed in 1992.

With the construction of the reactor, the country's third, North Korea would have the capacity to produce 28 kilograms of plutonium a year by 1991 or 1995, said the paper, a conservative national daily.

It said this would be enough plutonium to produce two or three bombs of the size the United States dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, at the end of World War II.

There have been heightened international concerns that increasingly isolated North Korea will be able to produce nuclear weapons by the mid 1990s.

The Soviet Union, the United States, Japan, China and South Korea have called on North Korea to sign a nuclear safeguards treaty and open its nuclear facilities to inspection.

North Korea has refused, citing nuclear weapons allegedly kept by the United States in pre-war South Korea, its arch-enemy.

Lee Joung-Binn, assistant minister for foreign affairs, told a foreign news briefing on Tuesday that "new construction of substantial magnitude is now underway." He did not give any more details.

Mr. Lee said the North's refusal to put its nuclear facilities under international safeguards "cannot be interpreted as indicating its intention for nuclear weapons development."

South Korea's defence minister recently said Seoul might launch a commando raid against North Korean nuclear facilities if the Pyongyang government did not allow international inspections.

The Seoul government quickly

distanced itself from the comment, but the remark heightened tensions and alarmed experts who say the danger of confrontation on the divided Korean Peninsula is not over.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said during a visit to South Korea Saturday that Moscow would suspend supplies of nuclear fuel and high technology to North Korea if nuclear inspections were not allowed.

The Soviet Union is a longtime ally and arms provider to North Korea and Mr. Gorbachev's visit to the rival South, with which it has had relations only seven months, angered the North.

The Seogye Times said that with North Korea's new construction, it will not need the Soviet nuclear fuel.

A Uranium refinery to produce enriched uranium for nuclear fuel is being constructed near P'yongsan, located about 40 kilometres from the heavily armed Korean border, the paper said.

North Korea has at least four million tonnes of Uranium ore which can be readily mined to make fuel for the reactors, said the paper. North Korea is in a position to supply nuclear fuel from its own deposits, it said.

North Korea already has two nuclear reactors which are allegedly part of a nuclear research facility at Yongbyon, according to South Korean intelligence.

The new Yongbyon reactor is to have a 200,000-kilowatt capacity, said the paper, which is substantially larger than previous construction. The other nuclear reactors are said to be medium-sized with capacities of 4,000 and 30,000 kilowatts.

South Korea has nine nuclear reactors and three more under construction, all for commercial purposes.

The United States has refused to confirm or deny the existence of nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea. It maintains that the issue is irrelevant since the peninsula is under the nuclear umbrella of neighbouring states — China and the Soviet Union — which possess nuclear weapons.

North Korea has for several years demanded the peninsula, divided since 1945, become a nuclear free zone.

Mandela arrives in London

LONDON (Agencies) — South African opposition leader Nelson Mandela arrived in London Wednesday for a two-day visit that will include his first meeting with British Prime Minister John Major and a likely disagreement over sanctions.

Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress (ANC), arrived at London's Heathrow Airport from Japan one hour after South African President F.W. de Klerk left for Copenhagen to continue a five-day European visit.

An ANC spokesman said the main purpose of Mandela's visit was to brief ANC President Oliver Tambo, who has been recuperating in Britain from a partial stroke, on developments in South Africa ahead of an ANC conference in late June.

The spokesman said in his talks with Major Mandela would insist that sanctions must remain in place to maintain pressure on the Pretoria government to speed up apartheid reforms.

"We will tell him of the need to maintain pressure on the government, including keeping sanctions in place ... to hasten the government's actions in moving

forward," the spokesman said. Major, however, is unlikely to agree.

For 12 years, British Conservative governments, first under Margaret Thatcher and now under Major, have opposed sanctions as a means of promoting change in South Africa.

Major told De Klerk earlier this week that he would continue to press within the European Community (EC), and the Commonwealth for remaining sanctions to be lifted.

One British official, asked how Major was likely to respond to Mandela's opposition to easing sanctions, said the government's position has long been that "lifting sanctions helps everybody in South Africa."

He said that sanctions had encouraged De Klerk and his government to initiate the reform process, and that Mandela and Major had the same objective — to end apartheid and have a non-racial democratic system of government in South Africa.

Meanwhile De Klerk arrived in Copenhagen Wednesday for talks on ways to improve relations with Denmark, one of Europe's severest critics of apartheid. De Klerk's flight from London

landed at 11:05 a.m. (0905 GMT) and he headed immediately for lunch with Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen. De Klerk was to meet later with Prime Minister Poul Schluter.

On a three-nation European tour, De Klerk is appealing for fresh investment and trade with South Africa, where race-segregation laws are falling away. But Schluter's minority conservative government has its hands tied on that subject.

The Danish parliament ordered the government last week to maintain trade sanctions against South Africa, despite a decision by other European Community countries to lift most sanctions.

In South Africa two people were killed and 12 wounded when fighting broke out overnight on a train in the black Soweto township, police said Wednesday.

Colonel Tienie Halgrun said one woman died instantly and a man died later in hospital.

The South African Press Association news agency quoted witnesses as saying a gang armed with AK-47 rifles and axes attacked passengers, forcing some to leap from the moving train.

U.S. picks builders of Stealth bomber

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Defence Department has picked a group headed by Lockheed Corp to build a revolutionary fighter plane for well over \$100 million apiece, a price planners hope will ensure U.S. military control of the skies well into the next century.

Lockheed and its partners, Boeing Co and General Dynamics Corp, edged out a rival proposal by Northrop Corp and McDonnell Douglas Corp to build 648 of the radar-evading Stealth advanced tactical fighter jets for the air force.

Pratt and Whitney, a unit of United Technologies Corp, beat General Electric in the competition to provide the engines.

U.S. Air Force Secretary Donald Rice made the announcement at the Pentagon Tuesday, saying the Lockheed group "clearly offered a better capability with lower cost."

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said on a Cable News Network (CNN) television programme that the decision was made primarily because of the group's "better quality, better price, a better management system."

Even by Defence Department standards the project is considered expensive, probably the biggest of the post-cold war thaw.

Rice said a \$13 billion development contract was expected to go to the winning team this year. Both competing groups had already spent over \$1 billion to develop prototypes.

But that's just for starters. Production of the 648 jets would cost a minimum of \$47 billion. Depending on inflation over the 20-year projected life span of the plane, Rice said production costs could hit \$79 billion. The lucrative contract is expected to create at least 7,000 jobs at the three companies.

The Supersonic F-22 fighters are designed to be virtually invisible to radar and will replace the McDonnell Douglas F-15 fighter jet and the General Dynamics F-16, the air force's frontline fighters.

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Official media quoted the election commission as saying the NLD had replaced Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin Oo, an ex-general now serving a three year jail sentence for undermining the state, with acting Secretary U Lwin and acting Chairman Aung Shwe.

Former Pakistani minister fined, barred from assembly

ISLAMABAD (R) — A Pakistani court fined former Law Minister Iftikhar Hussain Gilani Wednesday and disqualified him from parliament in the first accountability judgement against the government of ex-Premier Benazir Bhutto.

A special court in Peshawar, one of several set up by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan after he sacked Bhutto's government last August, convicted Gilani of misusing official funds, the official APP news agency reported.

He was fined two million rupees (\$87,000) and banned from holding elected office in parliament or any provincial assembly for seven years. If he fails to pay, he would be sentenced to six months in prison.

Gilani denied any wrongdoing in handling 2.8 million rupees (\$122,000) of legal aid funds that had been deposited in a private account and said unused money had been returned.

He can appeal to the high court against his conviction and disqualification from elected office. Ishaq Khan dismissed the Bhutto government on charges of corruption and misuse of power. He set up special courts to try the former premier and many of her colleagues.

Bhutto, now visiting Sweden, faces eight charges herself. The opposition leader could be barred from elected office if convicted.

Costa Rica quake death toll reaches 79

PUERTO LIMON, Costa Rica (AP) — Rescue workers continued digging through the rubble Wednesday for bodies and possible survivors of a powerful earthquake that killed at least 79 people and injured more than 800 others.

Electricity has been restored to most of this Caribbean port after it was devastated by the quake felt as far away as Panama. But there were still shortages of food and nearly no water.

"We're subsisting solely on coconut milk," said Manfred Ching, 20, one of several volunteers who helped put out a huge fire when a gasoline storage tank exploded in the government-owned refinery on the outskirts of town.

Ching, a banana loader, sat in grimy overalls on the sidewalk, cracked and buckled by the quake. Across the street was the International Hotel, a four-storey structure that collapsed with the first jolt.

Hundreds of people in Puerto Limon and neighbouring villages huddled outside their damaged homes, afraid to go back after Monday's quake and the hundreds of small aftershocks that continued to rattle the area.

None of the aftershocks was as intense as the five big ones that followed the killer earthquake, which measured 7.4 on the Richter Scale and was believed centered in the Caribbean off Puerto Limon.

By Tuesday night, the toll reached 79 deaths, more than 830 injured and thousands homeless. Fifty of the dead were recorded in Costa Rica and the rest in Panama's remote Atlantic province of Bocas del Toro.

The earthquake was the deadliest in Central America since 1986, when a tremor killed 1,500 people in El Salvador.

Puerto Limon took the brunt of the quake's fury because it was so close to the epicentre. About 400 of its homes, most of them old and wooden, shattered like dry

Taiwan president vows rapid democratic reform

TAIPEI (R) — President Lee Teng-Hui promised the elderly members of Taiwan's National Assembly Wednesday that he would quickly return the island to constitutional rule and move towards reunification with China.

"This will rapidly turn the tender sprout of democracy into a strong and stable tree," Lee said in a closing speech to the assembly.

On Monday, the assembly paved the way for political reform by dropping emergency provisions in force since the nationalist government fled Communist rule in China in 1949.

Warm applause rippled through the chamber, packed with ageing Nationalist Party stalwarts who must now vacate the seats they have held ever since they were first elected in mainland China during the 1940s.

"This is truly a turning point in history," Assembly Secretary-General Chu Shih-Lie, who must also step down, told reporters.

China, which has for decades been blaring propaganda across the narrow Taiwan Strait to Nationalist ruled islands, Wednesday called an end to its

loudspeaker war with Taiwan. The official New China News Agency said loudspeakers from the southeastern province of Fujian would finally fall silent.

"The move is aimed to further relax tension in the Taiwan Straits, as well as to create a harmonious and happy atmosphere," the news agency said, quoting a military spokesman.

While Lee's reform package aims primarily to increase democracy in Taiwan, government officials say it is also a symbolic step toward decreasing tension with China.

The assembly's vote clears the way for Lee to proclaim an end to the "period of Communist rebellion," an emergency decree issued more than 40 years ago that has kept the Nationalists locked in a cold war struggle with Peking.

The announcement is widely expected at a presidential press conference scheduled for April 30.

"This will not only bring us a new stage of constitutional development, but also creates a new opportunity to complete the great

task of national reunification," Lee said.

The decision to drop the emergency decree caps a period of cautious reform that began with the end of martial law in 1987, the relaxation of bans on travel to China starting that year, and the legalisation of new political parties in 1989.

Within three years, all deputies in the three branches of parliament will be elected in Taiwan, although the government's continued claim to be the legitimate government to all China will be maintained by a number of "national" seats distributed according to the results of local elections.

The Nationalists' reform plans have been bitterly attacked by the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which says they do not go far enough and merely maintain the ruling party's hold on power.

The DPP's sharpest attack has been reserved for new revisions which will preserve special emergency powers for the president — the core of the 1948 emergency decree.

Lee Wednesday vowed to use

the powers "with the utmost care, in accordance with national security, the welfare of the people and the requirements of the situation."

The DPP, which holds only eight of the more than 570 seats in the assembly, has boycotted meetings since April 15 and says it rejects all of the assembly's decisions.

The DPP staged the biggest street protest in its history on April 17 when some 10,000 people thronged Taipei in protest against the reforms. Some 27 students are on a protest hunger strike at national Taiwan University.

Presidential spokesman Cheyne Chiu confirmed that Lee would drop the emergency decree and also explain Taipei's new position on relations with Peking, state radio reported.

Chiu said Taipei was prepared to recognise the existence of the Peking government but was reserving comment on its legitimacy until China made a clear response to the Taiwanese overture, the radio said.

Charles, Diana begin visit to Brazil

BRASILIA (R) — Prince Charles, at the start of a five-day visit to Brazil, met with President Fernando Collor de Mello and planned a tour of a giant iron mine in the Amazon, the president's press office said.

Prince Charles and the Princess of Wales were in Brazil to visit ecological and social assistance projects. The Prince of Wales will plant a tree at the Carajas iron mine as a symbol of his support for a Brazilian programme for reforestation and protection of the environment at the site, one of the world's largest reserves of iron ore and other minerals.

Prince Charles is taking up his favourite sport again nearly a year after breaking his arm during a polo match, his polo manager said. The 42-year-old heir to the British throne will attend a weekend practice match ahead of the start of the polo season next month.

Major Ronald Ferguson said. Prince Charles broke his arm in two places when he fell from his pony last June and had to endure months of pain and two operations before his injuries healed.

Murder rate soars in New York

NEW YORK (R) — New York City's murder rate soared to a record high for the third year in a row, according to police department figures released which showed that 2,245 people were killed during 1990. The police statistics also revealed that the big apple was again the U.S. robbery capital for a second year in a row, with about 274 muggings committed each day in 1990 for a total of 100,280.

The homicide rate marked a 13.3 per cent increase over 1989's figure of 1,905 and did not include the single biggest mass murder in the city's history — the March 1990 arson at the Happy Land Social Club in the Bronx in which 87 people were killed. Of the 2,245 people killed last year, 99 were children under the age of 16 and 24 were bystanders cut down by random gunfire or bullets intended for others, police said.

The figures ranked New York City ninth for murders among American cities. Washington remains the U.S. murder capital, according to police statistics adjusted to account for population discrepancies.

Australian ghost town for sale

SYDNEY (R) — For sale: Australian ghost town — a "renovators' delight." Joadja, nestled in a lush green valley about 90 kilometres southwest of Sydney, is up for sale with a price tag of around two million dollars (\$1.5 million). The former mining town, deserted since the early 1900s, features a cemetery, a schoolhouse and a row of sandstone houses along its main street, Carrington road. The ghost town also comes with a 1,295 hectare (3,200 acre) valley of prime grazing land — and a mystery.

In 1897 Mrs Jessie Cowie was killed near Joadja Creek, but her murder was never solved. Cowie, 37, was found by her husband brutally bashed about the head and chest after she attended a party in the valley, said local historian Leone Knapman. "Her husband ripped off the door to their cabin to use as a stretcher and carried his wife home, but she died in his arms about one hour later," Knapman said.

Television reporter told her that while filming in the valley in 1986 she saw the ghost of a young woman in a white dress and shawl who told her she had been killed by her husband. The ghost allegedly said she had died as a result of fluid on the lungs, which is how Cowie died, and that her six-year-old son was buried on the top of Joadja Mountain, which is where Cowie's six-year-old son is buried. "Jessie's husband had given her some soup when he got her back to the cabin and she drowned, but her death certificate said she died from misadventure," said Knapman.

Arnett cops special Overseas Press Club Award

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN correspondent Peter Arnett was honoured for an international reporting career capped by his coverage of the Gulf war. CBS News correspondent Bob Simon, held by the Iraqis for weeks during the conflict, was also honoured at the 52nd annual Overseas Press Club Awards Ceremony in New York. Five other winners received awards for work on the Middle East conflict.